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County of Santa Cruz

Criminal Justice

Review of the Citizens' Police Review Board of the City of Santa Cruz

Background

The Citizens' Police Review Board (CPRB) was established by the Santa Cruz City Council on April 26, 1994 as a means for local citizens to provide oversight for the Santa Cruz City Police. According to the *Citizens' Police Review Board 1999 Annual Report*, the board was established after "incidents of alleged police misconduct" took place.

According to Santa Cruz City Charter §1001, the CPRB was established for the following reasons:

- To enhance citizen understanding of the process of submitting, processing and responding to citizen complaints regarding police officers
- To add a citizen perspective to the evaluation of these complaints
- To contribute to timely, fair and objective review of citizen complaints
- To recognize that all people in the city of Santa Cruz deserve protection of their human and civil rights and respect for their fundamental dignity as human beings
- To review investigations of all police-involved shootings regardless of whether a complaint has been filed
- To provide fair treatment to and protect the rights of police officers

The CPRB office is located at 915 Cedar Street in Santa Cruz. Hours of operation are Monday-Thursday 8AM-1PM and Friday 8AM-12PM. The CPRB reviews the completed Internal Affairs investigations of citizen complaints against the Santa Cruz City Police Department. In addition, it makes recommendations to the police chief, city manager, and city council.

The operating budget for the CPRB for fiscal year 2000-01 is approximately \$86,000.

Scope

A Grand Jury review of the CPRB was driven by a citizen complaint. The complainant stated that the CPRB board members were trying to meet the needs of the Santa Cruz City Police Department rather than the public because of “direct or implied intimidation” by members of the police department. The complainant also expressed that the CPRB needs to become a confident, democratic body.

The Grand Jury decided to look beyond this complaint and conduct a more thorough review of the CPRB. The Grand Jury reviewed the CPRB and its functions by completing the following:

- Attended 5 CPRB public meetings in 2000 and 2001
- Interviewed former CPRB board member
- Interviewed CPRB chairperson and coordinator
- Interviewed chief of police
- Interviewed assistant city Manager
- Reviewed *City Of Santa Cruz Citizens’ Police Review Board 1999 Annual Report*
- Reviewed 2000-01 city budget
- Reviewed CPRB web site
- Read Santa Cruz Police Department’s Citizen Comment Brochure, *The Citizens’ Police Review Board of the City of Santa Cruz* brochure and the *Mediation* brochure given by CPRB of Santa Cruz
- Read CPRB meeting minutes October 2000-March 2001
- Read *Police Complaints/Inquiries for Year-end Report 1998 & 1999*

Findings

1. The CPRB is a seven-member voluntary board. Each city council member appoints one candidate for a seated position on the CPRB. The term of each member of the CPRB coincides with the term of the nominating city council member. Each member may serve a maximum of 8 consecutive years on the CPRB.
2. The board meets on the second Monday of every month for a public, open meeting from 5:30PM to 8:00PM in the city council chambers. In addition, the board meets in closed sessions to discuss confidential police personnel issues. The board met 14 times in 1999 for closed-session reviews.
3. Pursuant to CPRB by-laws, to be a member of the CPRB, one must
 - Be a qualified voter of the City of Santa Cruz
 - Not be employed by the City of Santa Cruz
 - Possess a reputation for fairness, integrity and responsibility
 - Have demonstrated an active interest in public affairs and service

4. According to California Penal Code §832.5(a)
“Each department or agency in this state which employs peace officers shall establish a procedure to investigate citizens’ complaints against the personnel of such departments or agencies, and shall make a written description of the procedure available to the public.”
5. A police review board is not mandated by the state. It is a discretionary review process and most cities do not have such a board. Santa Cruz City Police Department is the only law enforcement agency in Santa Cruz County to have a review board.
6. The CPRB provides an additional level of police oversight. The Board provides citizens an alternative place to express concerns outside of the police department.
7. *The Santa Cruz Police Department Citizen Comment Brochure* contains the comment form for the use of citizens. The form states that according to California Penal Code §148.6(b), the person making the comment is provided the following instruction:
“You have the right to make a complaint against a police officer for any improper police conduct. California law requires this agency to have a procedure to investigate citizens’ complaints. You have a right to a written description of this procedure. This agency may find after investigation that there is not enough evidence to warrant action on your complaint; even if that is the case, you have the right to make the complaint and have it investigated if you believe an officer behaved improperly. Citizen complaints and any reports or finding relating to complaints must be retained by this agency for at least five years. It is against the law to make a complaint that you know to be false. If you make a complaint against an officer knowing that it is false, you can be prosecuted on a misdemeanor charge.”
8. Citizen comment forms on the Santa Cruz City Police Department are available at the following locations in the City of Santa Cruz:
 - Santa Cruz Police Department
 - Citizens’ Police Review Board
 - City Clerk’s Office
9. Citizens may classify their comment in the following manner:
 - Commendation
 - Comment
 - Request for Mediation Information
 - Citizen Inquiry
 - Citizen Complaint
10. A commendation is one of the available options that the Santa Cruz City Police Department utilizes in its comment brochure in order to encourage positive feedback.

11. If the citizen chooses to make any comments, each comment is categorized as follows:
- A policy with which you agree/disagree
 - A procedure which was/was not properly followed
 - A procedure which you agree/disagree
 - A positive or negative comment regarding attitude, behavior or conduct by a city employee
 - A possible violation of the law
12. Should a citizen request mediation, the CPRB has contracted with the Conflict Resolution Center of Santa Cruz County to provide mediation services. The process can include the following:
- Mediation helps the parties communicate and come to agreements that are mutually acceptable.
 - Either party may request mediation at any time during the review process.
 - Mediation is voluntary and must be agreed to by all parties involved before it can be implemented.
 - All requests for mediation must be in writing.
 - Mediation is conducted at no cost to the parties involved and every reasonable effort will be made to schedule mediation sessions at the convenience of those involved.
 - Mediation sessions are closed to the public.

The Police Chief and the CPRB report that very few complainants request or accept mediation as a recourse to their complaint.

13. If a citizen indicates on the comment form that an inquiry is desired, the process is handled immediately by the supervisor of the involved officer. The supervisor is provided with the details of the inquiry. The supervisor is then instructed to immediately review the matter with the officer and provide the appropriate training or counseling or corrective action to prevent any further recurrence. The CPRB does not handle inquiries.

14. According to the 1999 Annual Report, the CPRB reviewed 27 citizen complaints, some of which contained multiple allegations. The range of allegations included the following:

Range of Allegations

Conduct	Procedural
Officer misconduct	Unlawful arrest
Excessive force	Unlawful search
Missing/damaged property	Improper procedure
Discrimination	Failure to take action

Conduct Allegations

Year	Officer Conduct	Excessive Force	Missing/Damaged Property	Discrimination	Total
1999	22	4	1	0	27
1998	18	7	2	0	27
1997	20	7	1	0	28

Procedural Allegations

Year	Unlawful Arrest	Unlawful Search	Improper Procedure	Failure To Take Action	Policy	Total
1999	2	1	31	5	0	39
1998	6	5	12	0	0	23
1997	8	3	22	2	1	36

15. If the comment form indicates that a complaint is being filed, the process necessitates a formal investigation into the incident by Internal Affairs or the officer's chain of command. The following will occur:

- The case is assigned to the Internal Affairs Investigator.
- The Internal Affairs Investigator collects evidence and conduct interviews of the officers and any witnesses.
- The Internal Affairs Investigator makes his/her investigation available to CPRB in the form of a report and submits findings to the chief of police.
- The CPRB must review the completed investigation.
- The CPRB may:
 - Ask for further information from the chief of police
 - Call for an independent investigation
 - Hold hearings
 - Subpoena witnesses and take testimony
 - Make a ruling on the case as presented by the Internal Affairs report.
- The CPRB report is sent to the chief of police stating its findings and recommendations.
- The chief of police considers the CPRB report but makes final disposition of the complaint. While the report is being reviewed by the CPRB, the chief of police may not make a final determination.
- The chief notifies the complainant, the CPRB and the involved officers of the chief's findings and conclusions.
- The CPRB sends a copy of its report to the complainant.
- The CPRB may make recommendations to the city council and city manager regarding police policies.

16. Prior to the establishment of the CPRB, the process of a complaint involved the following:

- The case was assigned to an Internal Affairs Investigator.
- The Internal Affairs Investigator collected evidence and conduct interviews of the officers and any witnesses.
- An investigator submitted findings to the chief of police.
- The chief of police considered the Internal Affairs report prior to his final determination of the outcome of the complaint.
- The chief of police notified the complainant and the involved officers of the Chief's findings and conclusions.

17. In 1999, the CPRB determined that 94% of allegations were not sustained and the chief of police determined that 97% of the same allegations were not sustained. The CPRB Annual Report defines the term *not sustained* as “the review fails to disclose sufficient facts to prove the allegation made in the complaint.”

CPRB Findings on Allegations Reviewed

Year	%Sustained	% Not Sustained
1999	6	94
1998	11	89
1997	9	91

Chief of Police Findings on Allegations Reviewed

Year	% Sustained	% Not Sustained
1999	3	97
1998	10	90
1997	10	90

18. In 1999, 11 out of 28 complaints (one of which was not reviewed in 1999) came from the downtown Santa Cruz area. Out of the 27 complaints reviewed, the Board was unanimous in its findings on 20 of the complaints reviewed, split on findings in 4 complaints, made no findings in 2 complaints, and finding was pending on 1 complaint.
19. According to the *City of Santa Cruz Information Report for Year-end 1999*. The 27 complaints received comprised 0.05% of the total 60,763 calls handled by the police department.
20. According to the *City of Santa Cruz Citizens’ Police Review Board 1999 Annual Report*, “there were only a relatively small number of complaints...the small number supports the overall good effort of the City’s Police Department.”
21. In September 1999, the CPRB conducted its first independent investigation. This investigation was in response to community concerns and complaints of excessive force stemming from arrests at an anti-war demonstration. The added expense of an investigator caused the CPRB to spend beyond their 1999 budget.
22. Last year, the CPRB held a public hearing on the topic of racial profiling. This hearing was broadcast on *Community TV*.
23. In recent years, fewer complaints at the Santa Cruz City Police Department is attributed by the chief of police as a result of increased departmental training efforts, including mental health, homeless resource and social issues training.

24. The CPRB members are citizens who may not be experienced in police practice and procedures. The CPRB training involves a mandated CPRB orientation and ride-alongs with police personnel.
25. Originally, the board had to complete their portion of the investigation review within 30 days. Since the board only meets once a month, they want to increase their review of a complaint from 30 days to 60 days. After the Grand Jury interview, it was discovered that the timeline may now be extended when the CPRB coordinator contacts the city manager.
26. The CPRB Chairperson corresponded to the city council. In this document, the CPRB stated that they would like to see the following changes:
 - Improve officer cooperation in reviewing complaints
 - Improve ability to gain complainant cooperation
 - Allow public release of reasons for exoneration of the police officer
27. Since the establishment of the CPRB, the Internal Affairs investigation reports have increased from a typical 5-page report to a possible 25-page report. These reports must now be written in laymen's terms for the CPRB members, rather than police terminology.

Conclusions

The number of complaints made to the Santa Cruz City Police Department is extremely low.

The existing training provided to CPRB members does not involve adequate training in the Police Department's practices and procedures.

An established procedure is in place at the Santa Cruz Police Department to investigate citizen complaints and an additional level of review increases the complaint resolution time.

The chief of police is not bound by the recommendations of the CPRB but agrees with their findings in most cases.

A review board has the potential to provide a new perspective and serve as a checks and balances on the police department's complaint review process.

Recommendations

1. The CPRB and the Police Department should examine the complaint review procedures and streamline the process. The CPRB should prioritize the complaints by their gravity and be allowed discretion over those complaints it investigates. Currently, each and every complaint is reviewed.
2. The Santa Cruz City Council should research police review boards in other jurisdictions to study beneficial working relationships between the police department and the citizen police review boards.
3. The Santa Cruz City Council should evaluate the benefit to the community of maintaining a review board.
4. Training for the CPRB members should be improved and address the findings of inadequacy in the knowledge of the police policies and procedures.
5. *The Citizen Comment Brochure* should be made available on the CPRB and the Santa Cruz City Police Department's respective web sites.

Responses Required

Entity	Recommendations	Respond Within
Santa Cruz City Council	1 – 4	90 Days
Santa Cruz City Manager	1 – 4	60 Days
Santa Cruz City Police Chief	1 – 3, 5	60 Days
Citizens' Police Review Board	1 – 3, 5	60 Days

Review of Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Service Centers

Background

The Sheriff's Service Centers are located throughout Santa Cruz County, specifically in San Lorenzo Valley, Live Oak, Aptos, Freedom and a recent addition of the Summit Substation. The Sheriff's Service Centers were reviewed for the first time last year by the Grand Jury and were found to be an excellent enhancement to community policing. In order to heighten public awareness, this Grand Jury has included updated information on the Sheriff's Service Centers.

Scope

For this report, the Grand Jury carried out the following activities:

- Visited Service Centers and conducted follow-up calls
- Reviewed 1999-2000 Grand Jury report and responses
- Reviewed Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office 1999 Annual Report
- Reviewed 2000-2001 County Budget
- Reviewed 2000-2001 Sheriff-Coroner's Recommended Budget

Findings

These centers offer the local community an opportunity to speak directly with local law enforcement officers who provide a variety of policing services. A continual focus is placed on creating a positive relationship with local residents, businesses and community organizations.

Community policing is a strategy for involving the citizens of the community in combating crime and improving the quality of life in their neighborhoods. The Sheriff's Office has a strong commitment to further community oriented policing consistent with the Federal Crime Bill.

The Sheriff's Service Centers are part of Community Service Division, managed by a lieutenant. Each service centers is staffed with a sergeant assisted by community volunteers. Each sergeant supervises:

- Community volunteers
- Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Deputies
- Problem Oriented Policing (POP) Team
- School Resource Officers (SRO) at Soquel, San Lorenzo Valley and Aptos high schools

The following services are available at the centers:

- Filing a police report
- Fingerprinting services
- Signing off equipment violation citations
- Citizen inquiries
- Neighborhood Watch Programs
- Crime Prevention Education

Deputies assist with neighborhood disputes, graffiti abatement and youth issues including gang membership and drug and alcohol control. The County Sheriff’s Office received a \$300,000 three-year grant to reduce juvenile drug use through education, treatment and apprehension of junior high and high school offenders.

1999 Service Center Statistics	Frequency
Incoming Phone Calls Requesting Service	19,308
Citizen/Customer Visits or Inquiries at the Centers	8,098
Written Police Reports	1,388
Fingerprinting Service	584
Missing Persons Cases	476
Community Meetings Attended	262
Equipment Violation Citations Signed Off	250
Abandoned Vehicles Abated	181
Citations Issued	61
Megan’s Law Reviews (registered sex offender files)	22
Total	30,630

A patrol vehicle is available to the volunteers at each Service Center for official use, such as parking enforcement, vacation watch and vehicle abatement.

In the year 2000, the Sheriff’s Office expended a total of \$42,000 in direct costs for all five Service Centers.

Each center is unique in the manner in which it addresses the specific needs of its community.

Aptos Sheriff's Center

Aptos Sheriff's Center is located at 19 Rancho Del Mar, Suite D in the Rancho Del Mar Shopping Center in Aptos. Due to the high volume of foot traffic, this center encounters numerous requests for information.

The sergeant in charge interacts with the community and provides practical solutions to community issues. The sergeant meets monthly with representatives from schools within the Pajaro Valley Unified School District to discuss gang-related trends and youth issues.

Freedom Sheriff's Center

Freedom Sheriff's Center is located at 2020 Freedom Boulevard in the Freedom Shopping Center.

This center houses the Sheriff's Activities League (SAL) which has approximately 12 deputies and 20 citizen volunteers who coach and mentor youths after school hours and weekends. The SAL program is designed to involve young people in athletics at times when they would be otherwise unsupervised and at risk of criminal conduct. With over \$83,000 in grant funds, these kids are transported, twice a week, from the farm-labor camps to Pinto Lake in Watsonville. They participate in activities that include baseball, basketball, skateboarding, hiking, surfing and field trips.

Live Oak Service Center

The Sheriff's Live Oak Service Center is located at 870 17th Avenue, Suite B in Live Oak. There is no charge to the Sheriff for the use of this building.

This center offers missing persons follow-up and bicycle registration. The Live Oak Service Center collaborates with the Pleasure Point Night Fighters that help organize Santa Cruz beach clean up. In addition, the Service Center supports the Triton Action Sport Group that resolves disputes over surfing privileges.

In the event of an emergency, this center can be used as a command center.

San Lorenzo Valley Sheriff's Center

The San Lorenzo Valley Sheriff's Center is located at 6060 Graham Hill Road, Suite D in Felton, next to the Planning Department's Felton Business Permit Center. Since its relocation from Highway 9, foot traffic has increased due to the improved visibility and accessibility. This center distributes business card style magnets with all contact information for the center that are less likely to be misplaced than standard business cards. As a result, the number of incoming phone inquiries has increased.

In the event of an emergency, this center can be used as a command center for the San Lorenzo Valley.

Summit Substation

The Summit Substation is located on the joint campuses of the Loma Prieta Elementary School and C.T. English Middle School. The campus has donated an office for the Sheriff's Center.

This substation was recently established in a response to the desire of the local community to have a law enforcement presence in an area that was not patrolled on a regular basis. The center helps community members recognize and report suspicious activities. Because the Summit area shares a border with Santa Clara County, the sergeant often works closely with deputies from that county. At the time of the visit, there were 13 local volunteers. Available volunteers rotate their schedules to ensure that one is always present to take calls and answer inquiries.

The sergeant is well known in this community and interacts with the neighbors and the school. He writes a monthly column in the local magazine, *Mountain Network News*. Additional community deputies, such as the one at the Summit, are assigned to Corralitos, Davenport and San Lorenzo Valley.

Conclusions

The many benefits provided by the Sheriff's Service Centers to our local communities far outweigh their modest operating costs.

The Santa Cruz County Grand Jury commends the following:

- The volunteers for their dedication and time spent on behalf of their communities. Without the volunteers, these centers could not function successfully.
- The Sheriff's Service Centers Deputies and volunteers for providing community outreach and proactive crime reduction at the neighborhood level.
- The Sheriff's Service Centers Deputies for their efforts in reducing drug and alcohol abuse in teens through the above mentioned programs.
- Deputy Amy Christey and the Freedom Service Center for establishing the non-profit organization SAL.

Recommendations

None

Response Required

None

Review of Ben Lomond Youth Conservation Camp

Background

The California Youth Authority (CYA) and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDFFP) jointly operate the Ben Lomond Youth Conservation Camp. This minimum-security facility is located at 13575 Empire Grade Road. Only male wards are assigned to this juvenile facility.

Scope

Pursuant to Penal Code §919(b), the Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county. The Grand Jury fulfilled this requirement as follows:

- Toured the facility
- Conducted interviews during the tour
- Read two leaflets published by the state of California: California Youth Authority & Youthful Offender Parole Board/Restitution Guide for Offenders and He Got CYA/California Youth Authority Information for Victims of Crime
- Reviewed California Youth Authority web site

Findings

This CYA facility houses offenders between the ages of 18-25 years. The CYA has a maximum jurisdiction time which, depending on the seriousness of their crime, expires on either the inmate's 21st or 25th birthday.

Offenders are sent to CYA under any of the following conditions:

- They are committed by a juvenile court.
- They are tried as an adult and committed by a criminal court.
- They are tried as an adult and committed to the California Department of Corrections but ordered housed in a CYA facility.

At the time of the tour, there were 73 offenders living at the facility, which has an inmate capacity of 83. Most of the offenders are there for drug related offenses. Although this facility is within Santa Cruz County, offenders are from other counties. Santa Cruz County offenders, who are sentenced to a CYA facility, serve their sentence in another CYA facility outside the county. According to interviews conducted while at the facility, the escape rates are lowered when wards serve at a distance from their family and friends.

Offenders are assigned to a program based on their age, maturity level, educational needs, program availability and the seriousness of their crime.

The primary function of the Ben Lomond Youth Conservation Camp is to assist in the fire protection of the community. CYA camps perform approximately 350,000 hours of fire suppression services throughout California per year. When the wards are firefighting, they are under the authority of the fire captain from CDFFP. Crews typically work in state and county parks and perform wildland fire suppression and flood control activities throughout the state.

A major emphasis at the camp is on developing skills and good work habits. Offenders who have not completed high school are required to attend school full time while at this facility. The facility has a full time teacher, a teacher's aide, a library and computers. Some offenders attend remedial studies, while others work toward their GED. A partial list of required courses includes:

- Anger Management
- Emotional Management
- Victim Awareness
- Work Awareness
- Parenting Classes
- Sex Offender Treatment
- Substance Abuse Treatment
- Firefighting Skills

A staff of seven youth counselors provides both individual and group counseling. Offenders are required to participate in the Impact of Crime on Victims Program that addresses the impact their crime has had on their victims, their families and the community. To help the wards with their return to society, tattoo removal services are available.

Wards receive a small stipend for firefighting, food preparation, janitorial duties and other work performed while at the facility. A portion of the stipend can be garnished to pay for court-ordered restitution. When the youth commits a crime, they must pay their victim for the damage, injury or loss caused by their criminal activity. The amount of restitution ordered by a judge will be equal to what the victim lost due to the offender's actions. Some examples of loss include medical costs, funeral costs, costs to repair property or the victim's insurance deductibles.

Judges order the offender to pay a restitution fine. For example, a juvenile who has a misdemeanor conviction could pay up to \$100. A juvenile with a felony conviction could be ordered to pay between \$100 and \$1,000. Money collected for restitution fines is transferred to the State Restitution Fund to support the California Victims of Crime Program. Some offenders also send money home to support their own families.

Conclusions

Residents of California benefit from the firefighting work of the Ben Lomond Conservation Camp and the Grand Jury recognizes the value of their hard work.

Wards are given a great opportunity to change and improve their lives through the educational and vocational classes offered at the facility.

Recommendations

None

Response Required

None

Review of the Blaine Street Women's Facility

Background

The Blaine Street Facility is located at 141 Blaine Street and is a minimum-security facility for women. These women have been sentenced for nonviolent crimes unrelated to a mental disability. The facility was established in 1984 and has 21 rooms that accommodate two inmates each. In 2000, the average range of the facility was 25-30 inmates and has a rated capacity of 32. In 1999, the facility averaged 31 inmates.

Scope

Pursuant to Penal Code §919(b), the Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county. The Grand Jury fulfilled this requirement as follows:

- Toured the Blaine Street Facility
- Interviewed the staff during the tour
- Read the *Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office 1999 Annual Report*
- Reviewed the Santa Cruz County Budget, various pamphlets and literature on operating procedures for this facility
- Read the two previous year's Grand Jury reports and responses and compared past recommendations and changes implemented at the facility
- Reviewed 1999 and 2000 Health Inspection Reports

Findings

The Blaine Street Facility is a home-like environment complete with a backyard, benches, children's sandbox, and vegetable garden.

The average stay is 3 to 4 months. Many of the women return to this facility, as they are frequent offenders. The most common offenses are drug and alcohol related.

The Supervising Correctional Officer from Blaine Street interviews inmates at the Main Jail. During the interview behavioral expectations, work assignments and class attendance at Blaine Street are presented to the inmate. According to the supervisor, inmates must "display a cooperative attitude and peaceful behavior if they are to remain at this facility." Most of the women prefer to serve their time here because of the special privileges available at Blaine Street. Inmates understand the consequence for violating the rules is a return to the Main Jail.

Several optional classes are offered at the facility, such as:

- Computer Classes (Windows, Keyboarding)
- Narcotics and Alcoholics Anonymous
- Career and Job Development
- GED Testing
- Art Classes
- Parenting Classes
- Knitting Classes
- Crocheting Classes

Blaine Street inmates have smoking privileges that are not available at the Main Jail. The backyard is the designated smoking area. The residents of an adjacent home have complained because they are negatively impacted by their view of the activities in the backyard of the facility.

Inmates can purchase candy, soda, cigarettes, playing cards, shampoo, and deodorant. The inmates also have access to television, treadmill, stair-stepper, stationery bike, exercise videos, library, board games and movies on video.

The inmates prepare meals in a small kitchen with menus developed by the Food Service Manager from the Main Jail. The facility replaced the refrigerator in 1999 and the stove in 2000. The carpet is scheduled for replacement in 2001.

Inmates are allowed one two-hour visit each weekend. An inmate’s day begins with a 6:30 AM wakeup call and ends with lights out at 10:00 PM.

Each inmate is assigned duties that may include kitchen chores, cleaning the bathrooms, or other household tasks. Some women work in the kitchen at the Main Jail. They walk to and from the Main Jail unescorted. Some women participate in the Work Release Program, which permits participants to work during the day and return to the facility in the evening.

The County’s Health Service Agency provides medical, pharmacy and diagnostic services. The doctors from the Main Jail attend sick call each weekday morning. Additionally, the chaplain, Crisis Intervention Team, and other service providers come to the facility.

The staff consists of one Supervising Detention Officer and two detention officers on a rotating work schedule. The accepted officer-to-inmate ratio is 1 to 50-60 inmates. Therefore, only one officer is required to be on duty at all times.

Conclusions

We commend the staff on the number of classes and activities available to the inmates. However, these activities are optional and are, therefore, dependent on the motivation of each inmate.

Recommendations

1. The Board of Supervisors should approve financing to expand classroom capacity at the facility and add smoking cessation classes to the education program.
2. The Board of Supervisors should approve financing to build a taller fence or other measures to reduce the negative impact of the facility on neighbors.
3. A Work Crew Program should be established at the Blaine Street Facility akin to that of the Rountree Facility.

Response Required

Entity	Recommendations	Respond Within
Sheriff-Coroner’s Office	1 – 3	60 Days
Board of Supervisors	1 – 3	90 Days

Review of the Juvenile Hall Facility

Background

The Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall is located at 3650 Graham Hill Road in Santa Cruz. This facility, built in 1968, consists of 42 rooms. Each room contains a single bed, a sink and a drinking fountain.

Scope

Pursuant to Penal Code §919(b), the Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county. The Grand Jury fulfilled this requirement as follows:

- Toured the Juvenile Hall Facility
- Interviewed the staff during the tour
- Read the *Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office 1999 Annual Report*
- Reviewed the Santa Cruz County Budget and various pamphlets and literature on operating procedures for this facility
- Read the two previous year's Grand Jury reports and responses to compare past recommendations and changes implemented at the facility.

Findings

Minors range in age from 12 to 18 years old. The average population in 1999-2000 was approximately 39 juveniles.

The Facility is divided into two sections, Unit A and Unit B. The unit assignment is based on age, gender and type of crime. On the day of the visit, there were 16 minors residing in Unit A. This unit houses older males that have committed more sophisticated crimes. There were 18 minors residing in Unit B. This co-ed unit houses the younger juveniles that have committed less sophisticated crimes.

Prior to admission to the Facility, many of the minors actively participated in gangs. The Juvenile Hall Facility is a "No Gang Zone." Upon arrival, the youth is assigned to a unit. Information is provided on the point system used at the Facility where kids on good behavior can earn privileges such as staying up later or eating in the dining room. On the first day, the minor is asked to read a copy of the "Juvenile Hall Rules." Examples of the rules include:

- "Talk or gestures of profanity, racial or sexual slurs are forbidden."
- "Talking, writing about or planning an escape is forbidden."
- "Changing your hairstyle, tattoos or body carving is not allowed."

The Juvenile Facility is well maintained. The Juvenile Facility contains classrooms, computers, a library, an outdoor recreation area and an indoor recreation area. In addition, the facility has a courtroom built in 1995. Last year’s Santa Cruz County Grand Jury recommended that an indoor gymnasium be built to allow for additional indoor activities. The County responded that this recommendation “has not been implemented due to lack of available funding.” The County felt funds may be “available in the upcoming year, at which time the opportunity will be submitted for the Board of Supervisors’ consideration.”

Special occasions at the Facility may include a barbecue, a visit from Barrios Unidos, career night, guest speakers, and musical groups. Each unit meets one night a week where the minors talk about their experiences at the Facility.

Hartman School, an accredited institution, is on site. The minors go to school 5 days a week. The morning begins at 6:00 AM when they must shower and clean their rooms. Clean clothes are provided. The youths are able to continue working toward their high school diploma while at the Facility. Classes begin at 8:30 AM and end at 2:45 PM.

Medical personnel are available 12 hours per day. In addition, a full time counselor is on staff. Last year’s Santa Cruz County Grand Jury recommended that a full time nursing position be created. The County responded that the recommendation “will be considered as part of the 2000-01 County budget process” and will be completing a “feasibility study during the next six months to determine whether additional medical staff is warranted.”

Conclusions

The staff deserves credit for their beneficial influence on the lives of youth through education, discipline, and friendship in an environment free of gang pressures. With the assurance of three meals a day and the opportunities provided by the Juvenile Hall Facility, these young people are given a chance to change and improve their lives.

Recommendations

1. The Board of Supervisors should not further delay the development of an indoor gymnasium at the Juvenile Hall Facility.
2. The Board of Supervisors should not further delay the creation of a full-time nurse position at the Juvenile Hall Facility.

Response Required

Entity	Recommendations	Respond Within
Board of Supervisors	1, 2	90 Days

Review of the Main Jail

Background

The Santa Cruz County Main Jail is located on Water Street in the City of Santa Cruz. This jail is a maximum-security detention facility operated by the Santa Cruz County Sheriff-Coroner's Detention Bureau. The facility has an inmate capacity of 249. This facility was built in 1981 and expanded in 1985.

Scope

Pursuant to Penal Code §919(b), the Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county. The Grand Jury fulfilled this requirement as follows:

- Toured the Water Street Main Jail Facility
- Interviewed the staff during the tour
- Read the *Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office 1999 Annual Report*
- Reviewed the Santa Cruz County Budget and various pamphlets and literature on operating procedures for this facility
- Read the two previous year's Grand Jury reports and responses and compared past recommendations and changes implemented at the facility.

Findings

The Main Jail houses both male and female inmates who are awaiting trial and individuals sentenced to a term of 1 year or less for serious and violent crimes. In protracted cases, stays in the Main Jail may extend up to 3 ½ years. This includes time served in the county jail before, during and after trial.

Although the facility is rated for 249 inmates, in 1999 the average daily population was 322 inmates. There are bunks three high in the day room due to the large population.

There are 87 budgeted positions for Detention Officers. On the day we visited the facility, there were 18 vacancies for Detention Officers because staff turnover has been high, causing mandatory overtime for the last 6 months.

Recent improvements at the Main Jail include:

- A new security monitoring system with color cameras,
- Replacement of single showers with double showers in five housing units and
- The "Livescan" Project (1999) that is used for sending fingerprints electronically to the State Department of Justice, which could aid in finding individuals using false identities and discovering other prior arrests.

Most of these projects were made possible through grant funds. The Sheriff's Office received over a million dollars for security modifications. In addition, the Sheriff's Office received \$1.7 million dollars from the Board of Corrections for a Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Grant. This grant is intended to reduce jail overcrowding.

Women at the facility are a growing population. At the time of our visit, the policy at the Main Jail was to house disruptive women in Unit H and all others in Unit G. Female inmates are at the Main Jail predominantly for being drug and alcohol abusers and/or involved with fraudulent check writing.

The facility contains a medical unit that is staffed 7 days a week from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The medical doctor is on duty Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. A nurse practitioner is on duty Thursdays. A psychologist is at the facility every morning from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. A dentist is available every other Wednesday from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM. The Crisis Intervention Team is available weekdays from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM. An Episcopalian chaplain is in the units every day. This chaplain contacts ministers of other denominations for the inmates when requested. The medical facility was well maintained clean and several brochures on crisis counseling and health related matters were available for inmates.

A full-time Food Service Manager is responsible for overseeing the preparation and distribution of all meals to the inmates in all four County facilities. Based on average inmate population, Food Services prepared and served a total of over 700,000 meals in 1999.

The Main Jail kitchen was originally designed to only feed 92 inmates compared to the 1999 average inmate population of 322.

The Main Jail kitchen has two cooks who are County employees and five inmates from Blaine Street Women's Facility to help with meal preparation. The inmates are screened for communicable diseases at Blaine Street by Health Services prior to coming to the Main Jail kitchen. The County maintains an annual contract with a dietician from Santa Clara County for menu development. Currently, the inmates are given a 2400-calorie diet. Special diets are available upon physician approval. The kitchen has insufficient space for meal preparation and food storage.

Conclusions

Much needed structural and security improvements have been initiated with grant funds.

Since women at the facility are a growing population, a plan needs to be developed and implemented to curb overcrowding.

The turnover rate of detention officers needs to be reduced.

Kitchen space and storage are inadequate based on the number of meals prepared daily.

Recommendations

1. Continue to expand the capacity of the Main Jail Facility to accommodate a growing jail population. Emphasis should be placed on the female inmate population.
2. Expand and renovate the kitchen facility to increase them square footage devoted to meal preparation and food storage.
3. Establish a salary schedule for the Sheriff-Coroner’s Office competitive with Bay Area rather than Central Coast counties.

Response Required

Entity	Recommendations	Respond Within
Board of Supervisors	1 – 3	90 Days
Sheriff-Coroner’s Office	1, 2	60 Days

Review of the Rountree Facility

Background

The Rountree Facility is located on 100 Rountree Lane on the outskirts of the City of Watsonville. It is known as “The Farm” because the inmates grow their own vegetables. Rountree is operated by the Detention Bureau of the Sheriff’s Department and consists of both minimum and medium-security facilities.

The minimum-security unit was built in 1970. The medium-security unit’s construction was completed in 1993 and opened in 1996 to alleviate over-crowding at the Water Street Main Jail.

Scope

Pursuant to Penal Code §919(b), the Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county. The Grand Jury fulfilled this requirement as follows:

- Toured the Rountree Facility
- Interviewed the staff during the tour
- Read the *Santa Cruz County Sheriff’s Office 1999 Annual Report*
- Reviewed the Santa Cruz County Budget, various pamphlets and literature on operating procedures for this facility
- Read the two previous year’s Grand Jury reports and responses and compared past recommendations and changes implemented at the facility
- Reviewed 1999 and 2000 Health Inspection Reports

Findings

The minimum and maximum-security units at the Rountree Facility provide much needed relief from overcrowding in the Main Jail. On a weekly basis detention officers share coverage, and rotate between both facilities and the command post. Cross training is provided in all functions, permitting flexibility in posting personnel, covering absences, and reducing overtime expenditures.

Both units have a psychiatrist available, a chaplain, a law library, classes, self-help programs, and nursing coverage eight hours a day, seven days a week. Three nurses rotate working a split shift from 6:00 AM to 10:00 AM and from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM.

Minimum-Security Facility

The minimum-security facility is called the “Rehabilitation Unit.” The maximum stay in the Rehabilitation Unit is 90 days. In 1999, the average daily population was 159 inmates and had a rated capacity of 162 inmates. At the time of our visit, there were 80 minimum-security inmates whose average age was 27 years. During the day there are three detention officers at the minimum-security prison.

Inmates have an opportunity to earn their GED while at Rountree. In 1999, a total of 52 inmates received their GED certificates. In 1992, the inmates built a computer classroom that was completed in 1994. The facility has 14 computers available for introductory computer classes and 18 computers available for advanced computer classes.

In addition, inmates receive the following job training:

- Food services – skills are offered in culinary and customer service.
- Landscaping – a common area was made into a koi pond for meditation and enjoyment by all.
- Building maintenance – carpentry, painting and other trades improve vocational options.
- Auto-body repair – Inmates run an auto body shop including painting and other repairs related to the auto-body trade.
- Agriculture – Inmates maintain a vegetable farm where all crops are used in the jail kitchen or donated to non-profit organizations.

Inmates can participate in a Monday-Friday off-site work program to assist various county departments and public agencies. The current program allows only 40 inmate participants.

Government Agency / Dept.	Hours Worked
County Road & Yard Crews	1,768
County Landfill	1,034
City of Watsonville	954
County Warehouse	425
County General Services	216
State Beaches and Parks	102
County Parks	22
Man Jail	5
Total	4,526

Medium-Security Facility

The medium-security unit has a maximum stay of 110 days. This facility has two direct supervision housing units with a rated capacity of 96 beds for sentenced male prisoners. During the day there are four detention officers on duty. The average daily population was 72 inmates in 1999.

Assignment of male inmates to the medium-security unit is determined at the Main Jail. Detention/Classification officers are responsible for inmates’ placement within the three facilities: Main Jail, Rountree minimum-security facility and Rountree medium-security facility. Inmates who pose a security risk and have no violent criminal history may be placed in the medium security facility.

Inmates housed at this facility can participate in a number of educational classes and programs that are not available at the Main Jail.

Conclusions

The Grand Jury commends the staff for the extensive vocational and educational programs offered to inmates.

The work crews of the minimum-security facility are to be applauded for their efforts that enhance and contribute to the maintenance of county landfills, recreational parks and local beaches.

The number of inmates who completed their GED while at the facility is impressive.

Recommendations

1. The Sheriff-Coroner’s Office should expand the beneficial off-site work program to increase the number of participating inmates.

Response Required

Entity	Recommendations	Respond Within
Sheriff-Coroner’s Office	1	60 Days
Board of Supervisors	1	90 Days

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County of Santa Cruz

Audit & Finance

Financial Compliance Review of County Entities

Background

One of the responsibilities of the Grand Jury is to oversee the financial compliance by the Santa Cruz County governmental entities. These entities include the County of Santa Cruz, the county's 4 cities (Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley and Watsonville), 5 redevelopment agencies, various commissions, 15 school districts and approximately 100 special districts (including county service areas). The special districts include fire departments, water districts, recreation and park districts, an open space district, an air pollution district, water conservation and reclamation districts, sanitation and septic maintenance districts, a transit district, a cemetery district and a port district.

Most entities have their own 1) governing board, 2) revenue and expenses and 3) cash, other assets, liabilities and fund balance.

The Grand Jury only provides oversight, in that it does no investigation of its own, but rather assures itself that the entities are properly executing their own financial responsibilities. The Grand Jury makes no assurances as to the financial stability of the entities, only that they completed the financial tasks that the Grand Jury reviewed.

Scope

To fulfill its responsibilities the Grand Jury selected 12 entities for review. These included the county, all four cities, five special districts, a school district and a redevelopment agency. Statistics for these entities are shown in the table below.

Chart 1. June 30, 1999 Financial Statements

	Description	Revenues	General Fund Reserve Balance
1	County of Santa Cruz	204,171,066	15,972,865
2	City of Santa Cruz	42,622,809	16,951,650
3	City of Watsonville	20,212,669	8,321,191
4	City of Capitola	8,316,870	1,566,796
5	City of Scotts Valley	5,467,395	5,411,451
6	Soquel Creek Water District	6,107,380	25,349,789
7	Loma Prieta Joint Union School District	4,354,633	* 739,021
8	Pajaro Valley Water Management District	3,328,820	9,976,202
9	Boulder Creek Fire Protection District	478,788	2,300,481
10	Salsipuedes Sanitary District	161,797	1,468,862
11	Boulder Creek Recreation and Park	123,682	1,153,791
12	Capitola Redevelopment Agency	Included in City of Capitola	

* Understated, see comments later in report.

The Grand Jury requested and reviewed a substantial amount of financial information from these entities. To demonstrate this, we have attached our requests for information made to cities and the county (Exhibit A) and special districts to this report (Exhibit B).

Fieldwork for the Grand Jury's report was concluded on February 9, 2001, with the exception of one interview that occurred after this date.

The entities of Santa Cruz County show a high degree of professionalism in carrying out their responsibilities. The recommendations shown below, while important, do not diminish the excellent performance of the entities reviewed.

County of Santa Cruz

Findings

1. The County of Santa Cruz is a general law county¹ founded in 1850. It serves a population of approximately 255,000 persons and covers an area of 441 square miles.
2. Besides the county’s direct departments, the county oversees approximately 50 county service areas in the county. These county service areas cover a wide variety of services: private road maintenance associations, fire departments, lighting, parks & recreation, mosquito abatement, water services, sanitation services, septic maintenance and some police functions. These county service areas are audited as part of the independent Certified Public Accounts annual audit.
3. The county’s general fund reserves rose from approximately \$16 million dollars in the year ending June 30, 1999 to over \$41 million dollars in the year ending June 30, 2000.
4. The County of Santa Cruz Audit Committee requires that two Grand Jurors participate as members of the committee. This committee oversees the audit process including the selection of auditor and the review of the auditor’s reports. No member of the current Grand Jury was asked to participate in this committee. For the first ten months of the current fiscal year, this committee held no meetings.
5. At the close of fieldwork, the county’s annual financial statements were on the county’s web page but the current budget was not.

Conclusions

The financial compliance, including the work of their independent Certified Public Accountant, was clear, complete and well presented.

Because the members of the Grand Jury change every year, there is no continuity of membership on the county’s audit committee nor a guarantee that a qualified juror is available to sit. If the two grand jurors are removed from the committee, the board of supervisors should consider appointing members of the community that can participate with more continuity.

Recommendations

1. The County Audit Committee should hold regular meetings.
2. The county should either invite two members of the Grand Jury to sit on the County’s Audit Committee or revise the county’s requirement regarding grand jurors on the committee.
3. The county should make available all the pertinent financial information on the county’s internet site, including financial statements and department budgets.

Response Required

Entity	Recommendations	Respond Within
Board of Supervisors	1 – 3	90 Days

City of Santa Cruz

Findings

1. The City of Santa Cruz was incorporated in 1866 and is a charter city² with its present charter adopted in 1948. It serves a population of approximately 55,000 persons and covers an area of 12 square miles.
2. The city's budget is on their internet site but not the annual financial statements.

Conclusions

The financial compliance, including the work of their independent Certified Public Accountant, was clear, complete and well presented.

Recommendations

1. The city should make available all the pertinent financial information on the city's internet site, including financial statements and budgets.

Responses Required

Entity	Recommendations	Respond Within
Santa Cruz City Council	1	90 Days

City of Watsonville

Findings

1. The City of Watsonville was incorporated in 1868 and became a charter city² in 1903. It serves a population of approximately 37,500 persons and covers an area of approximately six square miles.
2. The omission of fixed assets from the financial statements gave rise to a qualified opinion on the city’s financial statements from its auditors. As a result, the assets and fund balance for the city are understated.
3. At the close of fieldwork, no financial statements or budgets were found on the city’s internet site.

Conclusions

The financial compliance, including the work of their independent Certified Public Accountant, was clear and well presented.

The city must resolve the fixed assets inventory issue raised by the auditors or it will always receive a qualified option on its financial statements.

Recommendations

1. The city should update its fixed assets inventory to include all fixed assets. A possible solution to the fixed asset inventory issue is to survey all the property the city owns and make a detailed list with an estimated date of acquisition and estimated cost for each item. The result is a complete fixed assets inventory. The city should clear this approach with its own auditor before proceeding.
2. The city should make available all the pertinent financial information on the city’s internet site, including financial statements and department budgets.

Response Required

Entity	Recommendations	Respond Within
Watsonville City Council	1, 2	90 Days

City of Capitola including the Capitola Redevelopment Agency

Findings

1. The City of Capitola is a general law city³ serving a population of approximately 11,000 persons and covering an area of approximately two square miles.
2. The 1998-99 financial statements include a budget-to-actual comparison report. Several items on this report showed budget-to-actual variance in excess of \$1 million dollars.
3. The city's general fund reserve is approximately 19 percent of its annual revenues. All the other cities in the county have reserves in excess of 40 percent of their annual revenues.
4. The city has had numerous reported shortfalls in monthly cash flows. This led to the postponement and rescheduling of several capital projects.
5. The city contributes more than \$225,000 to various civic and charitable organizations. The city has no plan in place to review any of these organizations.
6. The city's fixed assets report has dozens of entries with an acquisition date of "00/00/00." The city has never performed a physical fixed assets inventory. According to a city employee, this has not been a priority for the city and adequate staff has not been allocated to complete a fixed assets inventory.
7. Monterey Bay Area Insurance Fund (MBAIF) is a joint powers agency comprised of several Monterey Bay governmental entities to self-insure their workers' compensation disability claims, including the City of Capitola. MBAIF has said that they are not responsible for workers' compensation disability claims of temporary employees. The city disagrees with this decision and is considering legal action against them. This dispute creates a potential liability for workers' compensation claims filed by temporary employees.
8. The relationship between the Capitola Redevelopment Agency and the City of Capitola is such that the city is financially accountable for the Agency.
9. Although the city backs up its computerized financial data three times a day, the city has no offsite storage of its financial data.
10. At the close of fieldwork, no financial statements or budgets were found on the city's internet site.
11. A city employee refused to meet privately with the Grand Jury to answer questions. This employee was subpoenaed and did appear.

Conclusions

The financial compliance, including the work of their independent Certified Public Accountant, was clear, complete and well presented.

Repeatedly starting and stopping projects due to poor cash flow management is very inefficient.

MBAIF actions should be reviewed to see if their rejection of disability claims filed by temporary employees might create financial problems for the participating governmental agencies. In addition, MBAIF’s reserves should be reviewed to determine that they have sufficient reserves to cover all workers’ compensation disability claims. Inadequate reserves could create an unrecorded liability for the City of Capitola.

Recommendations

1. The city should institute a program to review on a rotating basis the operations of the local charitable and civic organizations to which it contribute funds.
2. The city council should more accurately estimate the budget’s components to reduce the budget-to-actual variances.
3. The city should more reliably manage monthly cash flows to have a more orderly process of implementing projects.
4. The city should make available all pertinent financial information on the city’s internet site, including financial statements and department budgets.
5. The city should establish a program of offsite storage for all financial data. One option would be for the cities and county to develop a cooperative storage arrangement.
6. The city should instruct all employees to make themselves available to meet alone with the Grand Jury without the need for approval by any city employee, elected city official or member of the city council.
7. The city should review the adequacy of its general fund reserve.
8. Next year’s Grand Jury should review the operations of the MBAIF. See the City of Capitola’s fiscal year 2000-01 financial statements, pages 38-39, footnote IV.

Response Required

Entity	Recommendations	Respond Within
Capitola City Council	1 – 7	90 Days

City of Scotts Valley

Findings

1. The City of Scotts Valley was formed in 1966 and is a general law city³. It serves a population of approximately 10,700 persons and covers an area of approximately five square miles.
2. The city is not responding to recommendations by the independent Certified Public Accounts. Several suggestions have been made for years without a response from the city.
3. At the close of fieldwork, summary financial statements and budget were on line. However, complete financial statements and budgets were not available on the city's internet site.

Conclusions

The financial compliance, including the work of their independent Certified Public Accountant, was clear, complete and well presented.

Recommendations

1. The city should make available all the pertinent financial information on the city's internet site, including financial statements and department budgets.
2. There should be a written response from the city finance manager to the City Council regarding the actions being taken to implement the independent Certified Public Accountants' recommendations.

Response Required

Entity	Recommendations	Respond Within
Scotts Valley City Council	1, 2	90 Days

Soquel Creek Water District

Findings

1. The Soquel Creek Water District was founded in 1961 and provides some 1.8 billion gallons of water annually to Aptos, Capitola, La Selva Beach, Rio Del Mar, Seascape and Soquel. The district's revenues come solely from user fees.
2. The district has used the same independent Certified Public Accountant for the last 12 years.
3. The district has omitted some expense accruals at the end of each year. The district's auditor has raised this issue in its recommendations to management for the last three years.

Conclusions

The financial compliance, including the work of their independent Certified Public Accountant, was clear, complete and well presented.

A good accounting practice is to change auditors at least every six years. There are many qualified independent Certified Public Accountants in the state from which to select. Changing auditors on a regular basis reduces the risk of a close relationship between the auditor and management that could lead to improprieties.

Recommendations

1. The district must properly accrue expenses at the end of each year.
2. The district should respond to and resolve the auditor's management suggestions.
3. The district should change independent auditors every six years.

Responses Required

Entity	Recommendations	Respond Within
Soquel Creek Water District Board of Directors	1 – 3	90 Days

Loma Prieta Joint Union School District

Findings

1. The Loma Prieta Joint Union School District is comprised of an area of approximately 50 square miles spanning Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties. The school district operates one elementary school and one middle school on Summit Road. The district serves some 717 students on average. Students from both Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties attend these schools.
2. The school district has been using the same independent Certified Public Accountant for the last four years.
3. The omission of fixed assets from the financial statements gave rise to a qualified opinion on the district's financial statements from its auditors. As a result, the assets and fund balance for the district are understated.

Conclusions

The financial compliance, including the work of their independent Certified Public Accountant, was clear and well presented.

The school district must resolve the fixed assets inventory issue raised by the auditors or it will always receive a qualified opinion on its financial statements.

Recommendations

1. The district should change independent auditors every six years.
2. The district should update its fixed assets inventory to include all fixed assets. A possible solution to the fixed asset inventory issue is to survey all the property the district owns and make a detailed list with an estimated date of acquisition and estimated cost for each item. The result is a complete fixed assets inventory. The district should clear this approach with its own auditor before proceeding.

Responses Required

Entity	Recommendations	Respond Within
Loma Prieta Joint Union School Board of Trustees	1, 2	90 Days

Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency

Findings

1. Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency is a state-chartered local agency formed to manage water resources in Pajaro Valley. It receives its revenues from user fees. Its service area encompasses the City of Watsonville, along with the communities of Pajaro, Freedom, Corralitos and Aromas and surrounding lands. It also covers 79,000 acres of irrigated agricultural land.
2. The board of directors does not always approve the selection of its independent Certified Public Accountant.

Conclusions

The financial compliance, including the work of their independent Certified Public Accountant, was clear and complete.

Recommendations

1. The board of directors should always approve the selection of the independent Certified Public Accountant.

Responses required

Entity	Recommendations	Respond Within
Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency Board of Directors	1	90 Days

Boulder Creek Fire Protection District

Findings

1. Boulder Creek Fire Protection District provides fire protection, first-responder emergency medical services, hazardous materials response and public fire safety education for an area of approximately 21 square miles. It employs two full time firefighters, which are supported by 31 volunteer firefighters. It receives its revenues from property taxes and fees.
2. The district did not respond to our request for access to the auditors' selection file.
3. The district has not responded to repeated recommendations from its independent auditors.
4. The omission of fixed assets from the financial statements gave rise to a qualified opinion on the district's financial statements from its auditors. As a result, the assets and fund balance for the district are understated.
5. The district has been using the same independent Certified Public Accountant for six years.

Conclusions

The financial compliance, including the work of their independent Certified Public Accountant, was clear and well presented.

The district must resolve the fixed assets inventory issue raised by the auditors or it will always receive a qualified opinion on its financial statements.

Recommendations

1. The district should change independent auditors every six years.
2. The district should respond to and resolve the auditor's management suggestions.
3. The district should update its fixed assets inventory to include all fixed assets. A possible solution to the fixed asset inventory issue is to survey all the property the district owns and make a detailed list with an estimated date of acquisition and estimated cost for each item. The result is a complete fixed assets inventory. The district should clear this approach with its own auditor before proceeding.

Responses Required

Entity	Recommendations	Respond Within
Boulder Creek Fire Protection District Board of Directors	1 – 3	90 Days

Salsipuedes Sanitary District

Findings

1. This district was formed in 1965 and operates under the Sanitary District Act of 1923. It serves 486 residential customers and 10 commercial customers. It covers about 800 acres, with about half of that being residential/commercial and the other half being agricultural or open space. The primary source of revenue for the district is from user fees.
2. This is a very small district and therefore does not have adequate resources to have a clear separation of duties for the proper controls over financial functions.

Conclusions

The financial compliance, including the work of their independent Certified Public Accountant, was clear, complete and well presented.

Recommendations

None

Boulder Creek Recreation & Park District

Findings

1. The district owns and operates parks and recreation areas for approximately 6,000 homes in and around the mountain town of Boulder Creek. Its revenue comes primarily from property taxes and to a lesser extent from user fees.
2. This is a very small district and therefore does not have adequate resources to have clear separation of duties for the proper controls over financial functions.
3. The June 30, 1999 and 1998 financial statements were not completed by the independent Certified Public Accounts until October 10, 2000. The board received this report over 15 months after the fiscal year ended June 30, 1999.
4. The district compiles its financial statements every two years rather than annually. Two-year audits are acceptable for small districts, see Govt. Code §26909. However, two-year audits made the first year's audit arrive over 27 months after its year-end.
5. The omission of fixed assets from the financial statements gave rise to a qualified opinion on the district's financial statements from its auditors. As a result, the assets and fund balance for the district are understated.
6. The auditor's management recommendations have not been implemented. The same recommendations were made repeatedly in previous audit reports, without action from the district. One request for the district to update its fixed asset inventory has been made each year since before 1995.

Conclusions

The financial compliance, including the work of their independent Certified Public Accountant, was clear and well presented.

The district must resolve the fixed assets inventory issue raised by the auditors or it will always receive a qualified option on its financial statements.

Recommendations

1. Financial statements must be completed on time. This should be no later than 6 months after the year-end in the report.
2. The district should update its fixed assets inventory to include all fixed assets. A possible solution to the fixed asset inventory issue is to survey all the property the district owns and make a detailed list with an estimated date of acquisition and estimated cost for each item. The result is a complete fixed assets inventory. The district should clear this approach with its own auditor before proceeding.

Response Required

Entity	Recommendations	Respond Within
Boulder Creek Recreation and Park District Board of Directors	1, 2	90 Days

Capitola Redevelopment Agency

Findings

The City of Capitola formed the Capitola Redevelopment Agency (RDA) in 1980. Its purpose is to eliminate blight by improving the infrastructure within a RDA's boundaries. This is accomplished through construction of improvements such as streets, curbs, gutters, sidewalks and lighting. This promotes development, reconstruction and rehabilitation of residential, commercial and industrial properties. The Capitola Redevelopment Agency receives its revenues from the increase in property taxes above base period property taxes. Base period property taxes are the taxes on the assessed value of the property in the RDA's boundaries at the date of formation of the RDA. This earlier assessed value is multiplied by the current property tax rate to arrive at the base period property taxes.

Two percent of the RDA revenues received are reserved for low income housing anywhere in the city.

The relationship between the City of Capitola and the Capitola RDA is such that the city is financially accountable for it. This is in accordance with acceptable accounting practices. The operations of the redevelopment agency are included in the City of Capitola annual audit. See the comments above for the City of Capitola.

Conclusions

None

Recommendations

None

¹ A general law county uses the California State Statues, as amended by its own ordinances, to govern itself.

² A charter city has its own set of laws to govern itself as allowed under the California State Constitution.

³ A general law city uses the California State Statues, amended by its own ordinances, to govern itself.

Exhibit A: Information Requested from Cities and the County:

1. Supply the organization chart for your City/County.
2. Who decides the selection of the independent Certified Public Accountant for this City/County? Who is the current independent Certified Public Accountant
3. How many years has it been since there has been a change in the accounting firm?
4. Are there any committees overseeing your work, if so what are the names of these committees and scheduled meeting dates.
5. Who does the interviewing and makes the recommendation of the independent Certified Public Accountant to the answer in #2 above?
6. Please make available the file used to store the Auditors' Proposals used to make the auditor selection.
7. Please prepare a letter to the independent Certified Public Accountant authorizing the Santa Cruz Grand Jury to discuss the audit with the independent auditor and to review the independent auditors Working Papers for any fiscal years.
8. Supply Comprehensive Annual Financial Statements for 6-30-98 and 6-30-99. Please include the independent auditor's management recommendation letters for 6-30-97, 6-30-98 and 6-30-99.
9. Supply the trial balance for 6-30-99 and 6-30-98.
10. Supply a complete chart-of-accounts for your financial system.
11. Supply the Budget for the current fiscal year. A separate line-item budget should be submitted if the Budget is not that detailed.
12. Supply the Budget for the prior fiscal year.
13. Supply a list of departments, entities and trust funds that are under your control or supervision.
14. Supply a list of the audits (both internal/external and financial/operational) performed by or for you for the last three years sorted by department/entity. The list should state: The department/entity/trust the audit was done for, the type of audit performed, the date the audit started and the date of the audit was completed.
15. Supply a list of the departments/entities/trusts not audited in the last three years and the reason that no audit was performed.

Exhibit B: Information Requested from Special Districts:

1. Supply the organization chart for the Entity.
2. Who decides the selection of the Auditor for this Entity? Who is the current Auditor?
3. How many years has it been since there has been a change in the Auditor?
4. Are there any committees overseeing your work, if so what are the names of these committees and scheduled meeting dates.
5. Who does the interviewing and makes the recommendation of Auditor to the answer in #2 above?
6. Please make available the file used to store the Auditors' Proposals used to make the auditor selection, if any.
7. Please prepare a letter to the Auditor authorizing the Santa Cruz Grand Jury to discuss the audit with the Auditor and to review the independent Auditors Working Papers for any fiscal years.
8. Supply Annual Financial Statements for 6-30-98 and 6-30-99. Please include the auditor's management recommendation letters for 6-30-97, 6-30-98 and 6-30-99.
9. Supply the trial balance for 6-30-99 and 6-30-98.
10. Supply a complete chart-of-accounts for your financial system.
11. Supply the Budget for the current fiscal year. A separate line-item budget should be submitted if the Budget is not that detailed.
12. Supply the Budget for the prior fiscal year.
13. Supply a list of departments, entities and trust funds that are under your control or supervision.
14. Supply a list of the audits (both internal/external and financial/operational) performed by or for you for the last three years sorted by department/entity. The list should state: The department/entity/trust the audit was done for, the type of audit performed, the date the audit started and the date of the audit was completed.
15. Supply a list of the departments/entities/trusts not audited in the last three years and the reason that no audit was performed.

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County of Santa Cruz

Responses to the 1999-2000 Grand Jury Final Report

Responses to the 1999-2000 Grand Jury Final Report

Introduction

Effective January 1, 1997, California Penal Code §933.05 was enacted to ensure that subject agencies truly consider and respond to specific grand jury recommendations. This section presents all responses to the 1999-2000 Santa Cruz County Grand Jury Final Report received by the Grand Jury to inform the public of the reaction to last year's Final Report.

Key provisions of PC §933.05 require that the responding officials or agencies must specifically comment upon each finding and each recommendation of the Grand Jury Report, rather than preparing a generalized response. The subject agency must respond to each published finding indicating that they agree, partially agree or disagree. Explanations for disagreements must be provided. The response to each recommendation must include the plans of the agency for implementing the recommendation. These must state if the agency has already implemented the recommendation, if it plans to implement the recommendation giving a time frame for completion, if further analyses on the recommendation are required or if they do not plan to implement the recommendation including an explanation.

The responses that follow do not always follow these guidelines. Both the original Findings and Recommendations presented in the 1999-2000 Grand Jury Final Report are included to give context for the responses. Reports that did not require a response have been omitted. The responding entities and the dates the responses were received are included following the title of each report. The responses to each finding or recommendation are embedded within the body of the text. The identity of the entity responding is followed by the text of its responses in *italics*. If an entity only responded in general to the report, its response follows the text of the entire report.

Some entities did not respond at all or their responses did not followed the guidelines in PC §933.05. This may be due to the fact that some entities may be responding to a Grand Jury report for the first time. In an attempt to assist both the respondents and the evaluation and publication of responses to this year's report, detailed instructions on how to respond were included in a cover letter to responding entities as well as in the appendix of this report.

The Grand Jury recognizes the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors for responding completely to all Findings and Recommendations, presenting its responses in an easy to read format and for making these responses publicly available on the County's web site.

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Cities and Other County Agencies Committee Reports

City of Scotts Valley – Page 4

Respondent: City of Scotts Valley

Response Received: July 8, 2000

Findings

The Scotts Valley Drive Reconstruction project was completed in 1999. Though completed slightly over budget due to some unforeseen problems, the project has made Scotts Valley Drive a safer corridor and has helped beautify the city. Total project cost was \$11.5 million.

Glenwood Drive improvements were completed within the time required for opening the new Scotts Valley High School. The City received \$400,000 for road and sidewalk improvements.

The Emerald Hill affordable housing project was opened in December 1999. The affordable housing agreement required that 22 of the 46 affordable apartments be held at very low rates and the others at rents affordable to very low-income families. The agreement also included a loan of \$1,289,000 from the City Redevelopment Agency to purchase the property.

Park improvements, including Hocus Pocus Park Phase II have been completed. Siltanen Park, at the north end of the city, is used for adult and youth softball leagues. Skypark at the former airport site has two fields for soccer and two play areas for young children.

The City has purchased two acres adjacent to Skypark for the purpose of building a community center. Additionally, a proposed 5000 square foot building would serve as a teen drop-in center. Amenities will include a juice bar, fitness center, gymnasium, kitchen and a stage for community activities and stage productions.

Water supply is a concern for the City. A tertiary plant was completed this year, and, pending permits, will be able to deliver reclaimed water.

The City applied for and received a Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) grant to landscape the medians on Scotts Valley Drive and Mt. Hermon Road.

Response: City of Scotts Valley – no response to Findings.

Recommendations

1. Maximize efforts to establish a center for teens in the City.

Response: City of Scotts Valley

The City recognizes the need for a teen center in the City of Scotts Valley. The Recreation Division has taken immediate short-term action regarding this issue and is simultaneously working on developing long-term solutions. For the fall of 1999, the Recreation Division established a middle school (young teen) program at Siltanen Park, located at the northern end of the City. This creative and innovative program provides an alternative for parents to the latch-key syndrome for young and at risk teens. Through the use of an existing building and community donations, a facility was created for middle school-age children to utilize after school and participate in supervised activities, work on homework, or just “hang out”. The students are met by staff at the end of the school day and transported to the park facility that includes a kitchen area, computer space,

couches, pool table, foosball table, and ping pong table. This program was so successful in its first year that it was expanded and offered for the summer of 2000.

As a long-term solution, the Parks and Recreation Commission has established a community center subcommittee that is in the process of designing a community center that will include a teen center to be located at Skypark. The Commission and City Council have approved a conceptual plan for the park area at Skypark that sets the top priorities for the park design as a community center/teen center, skate park, and soccer fields.

2. Implement the economic development plan for the downtown area.

Response: City of Scotts Valley

The Scotts Valley Economic Development Plan, adopted in Fiscal Year 1996/97, is enclosed for your review. It has six major goals, followed by actions to implement the goals. The six goals are:

- A. *Stimulate a positive business environment in the City of Scotts Valley.*
- B. *Promote the City as the positive business environment it is.*
- C. *Encourage business expansion and retention.*
- D. *Attract employers who provide livable wage jobs.*
- E. *Foster a healthy commercial sector, which can provide goods and services necessary to meet the needs of the shopping community.*
- F. *Assure that the environment and public infrastructure will support and encourage a viable business climate.*

The City of Scotts Valley has been very active and aggressive in implementing its Economic Development Plan in order to encourage business opportunities and improvements in the redevelopment area, which encompasses Scotty Valley Drive and Mt. Hermon Road corridors.

At this time, the following actions have been taken to implement the following goals:

- A. ***Stimulate a positive business environment in the City of Scotts Valley.***
 1. *We continually monitor taxes with neighboring communities that are discretionary. For example, TOT tax in the City of Scotts Valley at 10% is comparable to that with others in the County. In addition, our utility tax is much less than other local jurisdictions.*
 2. *We have improved our processing time for all City permits and do provide accelerated processing for tenant improvements for those employers bringing in new employees.*
 3. *Redevelopment funds were used heavily to complete the improvements of Scotts Valley Drive and during that process, redevelopment funds were also used to place ads in the local newspapers promoting the businesses on Scotts Valley Drive and Mt. Hermon Road.*
 4. *Various City Department Heads and the City Manager meet with local business owners to resolve issues on an as needed basis. For example, a local shopping center was experiencing a parking problem and our Police Chief met with the businesses to work to resolve the problem.*

B. Promote the City as the positive business environment it is.

1. Every new business is sent a welcome letter from the City Manager and enclosed in it is a brochure explaining the planning processes.
2. A business round table was formed early on with the beginning of the construction of Scotts Valley Drive and was quite active during the construction. This was to advise businesses of the status of Scotts Valley Drive as well as other topics.
3. Scotts Valley continues to have the lowest crime rate in Santa Cruz County.

C. Encourage business expansion and retention.

1. We continue to work and improve and maintain Scotts Valley Drive. Since its completion, it has been landscaped and the street sweeping efforts have been increased.
2. A business expansion and retention team was set up with Joint Venture Silicon Valley to help us assist businesses with various issues.
3. The City recently participated in the Business Visitation Survey, sponsored by the County of Santa Cruz and CareerWorks to survey local business concerns, training needs and local business issues. This survey was recently completed and results are pending. This information will help to address needs for existing businesses so they can stay here and prosper.
4. The City of Scotts Valley prepared a Commercial Development Strategy report with emphasis on retail sales leakage. This report summarizes opportunities for local business expansion. It also helps to direct local recruitment efforts at businesses which will compliment our current market.
5. The City received a Community Development Block Grant to conduct a feasibility study for creating a Business Revolving Loan Fund and a general fund resource book. The work is currently underway.

D. Attract employers who provide livable wage jobs.

1. We continue to market Scotts Valley to attract and identify businesses, especially in the Skypark commercial area. A major staff effort has been focused upon bringing a high-end town center to capture more jobs and provide a broader range of services to the City.
2. The City Council is currently reviewing a report of economic incentive programs used in other locations. It may provide a useful policy framework for programs of this kind if we decide to implement financial incentive programs.
3. The City has a variety of existing buildings and facilities conducive to Research and Development activities. For example, the City has been instrumental in streamlining the permitting process to allow for the Borland Campus to be retrofitted for multi tenant use. This will bring in another 1,000 high paying jobs. The City will also help to facilitate the streamlining of permits for the Phase II Borland Building to bring in another 1,500 high tech jobs.

E. Foster a healthy commercial sector, which can provide goods and services necessary to meet the needs of the shopping community.

1. As noted previously, the Commercial Development Strategy report was completed in 1998. This report assists the staff and the City Council in reviewing projects for compatibility with current uses. The study is being used to focus efforts for the new Town Center project at Skypark.
2. As previously mentioned, a review of economic incentives is going on which can either attract leakage stoppers through either expansion or new business.
3. The City continues to support the shop local program and emphasizes that sales tax is a major contributor to the City's General fund budget.

F. Assure that the environment and public infrastructure will support and encourage a viable business climate.

1. The improvement to Scotts Valley Drive, which has been completed, was done through a multitude of funding sources. An EDA grant of \$2.5 million, plus a local bond issue, and several other state and local grants totaling \$5 million.
2. We continue to support the enhancement of Scotts Valley's historic resources on an annual basis. The Redevelopment Agency has contributed \$60,000 to the Scott House restoration, and most recently received \$25,000 from the State legislature, specifically for further improvements of the Scott House, a historical building in the City of Scotts Valley.
3. Continue to provide education throughout the community, employers, and schools for trip reduction and alternative transportation. Scotts Valley Employees For Less Traffic (SVELT) program has been continued through local grant funds to provide part-time staff on an ongoing basis to assist employers with commuting solutions, promotion of Bike to Work Week and other congestion management programs.
4. The cooperation between the City of Scotts Valley and the School District is excellent as we share the same vision and goals. Currently, we cooperate with each other daily on the joint uses of School and City facilities to develop high quality education. City and School officials have been on school site district committees and bond oversight committees. The City, in record time, constructed an improved road with curb, gutter, and sidewalk prior to the opening of the Scotts Valley High School in 1999.
5. Improvements in traffic circulation continue with the improvement to Scotts Valley Drive and several years ago with the initial improvements to the Scotts Valley Drive/Mt. Hermon Road intersection, with the Redevelopment Agency funds. Grants have been obtained to improve the intersection at Scotts Valley Drive/Granite Creek Road, providing better circulation to southbound Santa Cruz as well as northbound to Glenwood Drive.
6. Policies are currently in place for staff and Council ensuring best development practices to maintain the mission statement which does call for an attractive natural environment. As a "hot spot" for endangered species and a locale with riparian and unique natural habitats, a key emphasis of the development review process focuses on environmental review and compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

As you can see, much effort has been made toward the implementation of the Economic Development Plan. The most important project before us at this time is the development of Skypark commercial property off of Mt. Hermon Road, which is the old abandoned airport. At this time, we do have a pre-development agreement with a developer to improve it to its highest potential.

3. Complete the Skypark long-range master plan including the community center.

Response: City of Scotts Valley

The Parks and Recreation Commission is currently in the process of developing the Master Plan for the park area at Skypark. The City Council established a conceptual plan for the park area that includes as its priorities a community center/teen center, skate park, and soccer fields. An additional two acres was purchased by the City to add to the park land to help assure that the priorities established by the Council could be developed at the site. A community center subcommittee is currently developing the design for the community center/teen center. When the community center/teen center design is completed, the final design of the entire park area can be addressed.

At this time, many of the elements of the Skypark Park have been completed. There are six acres of playing fields though a cooperative agreement between SLV/SV Youth Soccer and the City. The park has tennis courts, basketball courts, a barbecue area, playground equipment, par course, and restrooms.

LAFCO – Page 6

Respondent: LAFCO

Response Received: September 8, 2000

Findings

Review of documentation generated by the Manabe-Burgstrom annexation application revealed a complex and costly process. An inordinate amount of time and effort was required of all parties to respond to conditions, standards and policies, even though they are narrowly defined. LAFCO commissioner statements made during the August 3, 1999 public hearing include a variety of perspectives that make minimal reference to LAFCO standards and policies required for application evaluation.

Recommendations

1. Consistently apply LAFCO policies and standards when considering annexation applications.
2. Implement LAFCO policy through the consistent and objective review of relevant studies and reports.
3. Streamline the LAFCO annexation process in order to alleviate unnecessary costs to the municipalities affected.

Response: LAFCO

LAFCO appreciates the interest the community and the Grand Jury has in the important functions of the Commission. LAFCOs are required by state law to be set up as independent commissions to approve, conditionally approve, or disapprove all proposals

to change the boundaries of cities and special districts. The state law specifies the annexation review process, sets a few general state policies on annexations, and allows each LAFCO to adopt local policies and standards that are consistent with the state policies. One important state policy is articulated in Government Code Section 56377:

“In reviewing and approving or disapproving proposals which could reasonably be expected to induce, facilitate, or lead to the conversion of existing open-space lands to uses other than open-space uses, the commission shall consider all of the following policies and priorities:

- (a) Development or use of land for other than open-space uses shall be guided away from existing prime agricultural lands in open-space use toward areas containing nonprime agricultural lands, unless that action would not promote the planned, orderly, efficient development of an area.*
- (b) Development of existing vacant or nonprime agricultural lands for urban uses within the existing jurisdiction of a local agency or within the sphere of influence of a local agency should be encouraged before any proposal is approved which would allow for or lead to the development of existing open-space lands for non-open-space uses which are outside of the existing jurisdiction of the local agency or outside of the existing sphere of influence of the local agency.”*

As typical for proposals involving the urbanization of prime agricultural land, the Manabe-Burgstrom annexation was a complex proposal involving a very high level of public review and participation. LAFCO did ask the City to negotiate a better mechanism to discuss conflicts between land use plans of the City, the County, and the Coastal Commission, and to respond to an urban infill study prepared as part of the Pajaro Valley Futures Study. In performing these tasks, the City was able to directly address two issues of direct concern to the State and local LAFCO policies:

- 1. The level of infill potential of lands that are already located in urbanized areas.*
- 2. The disagreement among adopted plans for urbanization of agricultural lands in the Pajaro Valley.*

We believe the City’s efforts were helpful for the public and for the LAFCO Commissioners to fully debate and evaluate the annexation proposal. The City’s efforts on behalf of the annexation proposal also assured that their best case was made in the record of the hearing.

The Grand Jury found that the LAFCO Commissioners didn’t adequately lay out the nexus between the LAFCO standards and policies and their subsequent votes. At the conclusion of a complex public hearing, Commissioners both try to clarify any critical questions they have: and, at the time of voting, explain the rationale for their votes. Each Commissioner focuses on the most critical reasons, and does not go into detail about each policy. Following a long public hearing on the Manabe-Burcrstrom proposal on August 3, 1999, the Commissioners did in fact state their individual reasons for their votes. As required by law, LAFCO adopted a resolution at its next meeting explaining in greater detail the reasons for its actions. This resolution is an attachment to this letter. It

contains specific references to the LAFCO standards and policies that were key to the majority of commissioners who voted for the disapproval. For the reasons discussed above in this letter, we partially disagree with two findings of the Grand Jury.

Given the irreversible nature of the proposal to convert prime land from agricultural to nonagricultural uses, we believe that the time and effort required to review and decide this proposal was proper. The extensive written and oral testimony representing a variety of opinions by the public and the real parties reinforces the high-profile nature of the annexation and the proportional effort the Commission made in coming to a decision. Secondly, while we agree that individual commissioners did not address each LAFCO standard and policy when explaining their rationale for voting, each commissioner does carefully consider the facts in the record of the hearing relating to each standard and policy; and we hope that the attached resolution which was adopted by LAFCO helps to explain the nexus between the policies and the final action.

Grand Jury Recommendations 1 and 2 urge LAFCO to strive for greater consistency when applying policies and reviewing studies. We believe that each LAFCO commissioner is being diligent in reviewing each proposal. We will endeavor to demonstrate that to the public when we explain our votes on future controversial proposals. Important public policy decisions cannot be reduced to a simple scorecard; so, at this time, we are not scheduling any changes to the format in which proposals are reviewed. We would be happy to continue to discuss with the Grand Jury any specific ideas to improve the format of our decision-making process.

Concerning Recommendation 3 to streamline the annexation process. State law sets up the basic process. LAFCO has supported streamlining provisions in the past, such as AB 1335 of the 1993 legislative session. Subsequently, the Commission on Local Governance for the 21st Century conducted a two-year study of the boundary change process. The bill to implement some of that study's recommendations, AB 2838, is active in the final month of the Legislative session. If it becomes law, Santa Cruz LAFCO in the next twelve months will attempt to implement any provisions that will allow greater streamlining.

Recommendation 3 may also apply to local policies and practices followed by Santa Cruz LAFCO. As noted in our response to the findings, we believe that complex public issues deserve a thorough public debate. At this time we are not scheduling any tasks to streamline the local process. If the Grand Jury has any specific suggestions, we would be happy to discuss the feasibility and advisability of streamlining the local process.

Again, the Grand Jury is to be commended for its detailed review of how the annexation process was conducted for the Manabe-Burgstrom annexation.

Criminal Justice Committee Reports

Blain Street Women's Facility - Page 8

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

Response Received: September 26, 2000

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

Response Received: September 26, 2000

Findings

The facility has four housing units that contain a total of 22 double-bunked rooms. Each room has a desk, bulletin board and small lockers for personal items. There are three sinks, a toilet and shower in each housing unit. Recreation, exercise, crafts and library/classroom areas are also in the facility. Using a small modern kitchen, the women prepare meals with food components supplied by the Main Jail facility. The Health Services Agency (HSA) of Santa Cruz County generates all menus.

The facility has several areas of high security risk. Fencing is minimal and the facility is open to the street. The parking lot creates the risk of trespassing, smuggling and loitering. Since 1997, three video surveillance cameras and split-screen monitors have been installed. A lack of funding has delayed installation of the remaining video equipment already purchased. Installation of a generator was accomplished in August as approved by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors in compliance with California Government Code.

Response: Board of Supervisors DISAGREES.

The County does not agree with the finding that the Blaine Street facility has areas of high security risk. The Blaine Street Women's Facility is classified as a Minimum Security facility. The County has implemented various security improvements requested by the Sheriff, including the installation of surveillance cameras, additional exterior security cameras, an intercom and an electronic lock on the rear gate. The County believes that the current security level of the facility is satisfactory.

Response: Sheriff PARTIALLY AGREES.

The Sheriff partially agrees with the findings. The Blaine Street Women's Facility is classified with the Board of Corrections as a Minimum Security facility, similar to the Jail Farm in Watsonville. Some of the female inmates are on work furlough programs where they go to work during the day and return to custody at night. Due to the low security status of these inmates, the facility was built similar to a college dormitory in a residential area. There are concerns about security of the facility as with all the other jail facilities. Installation of the surveillance cameras have been completed and additional upgrades have been approved by the Board of Supervisors for this fiscal year, including additional exterior security cameras an intercom and electronic lock on a rear gate.

Inmates have structured work assignments or jobs within the facility. They are responsible for all maintenance and cleaning. The facility is well maintained and very clean. There are several work-furlough inmates housed at the facility. During the day, the Probation Department is responsible for the supervision of these inmates at their work sites within the community. The inmates report back to Blaine Street at the end of their work shift.

Inmate population primarily consists of drug and alcohol offenders. Four years ago, substance abuse counseling was made available. Random drug testing is conducted on about 20 inmates a month. An inmate must be drug and alcohol free while in this facility. Detoxification is only available at the Main Jail.

Response: Sheriff AGREES.

Since 1996, the Board of Supervisors has closely monitored the number of educational and vocational programs offered to inmates at the facility. Due to signs of unbalanced numbers of courses offered to female inmates when compared to courses offered at the male Rountree facility, the Detention Bureau was charged with determining the needs of Blaine Street inmates and to implement programs accordingly. The Blaine Street facility presently offers classes that effectively assist female inmates. Current and former inmates attribute their determination to succeed and success when released from custody to the many programs offered at the facility. Courses include: Pajaro Valley Prevention and Substance Abuse; Parenting and Education; Job and Career Development; General Education Degree (GED) and computer lab; Getting Out and Staying Out; and art.

Response: Sheriff AGREES.

Visitation is once a week for two hours per inmate, either on Saturday or Sunday. Visits take place in the dining and patio areas. A Visiting Request Log must be submitted to the duty officer two days prior to visiting day for up to two adult visitors and any number of children. The Detention Officer on duty screens visitors prior to visitation.

There is minimal access to medical services at the facility. A nurse conducts daily morning visits to the facility. The Detention Officer on duty distributes non-narcotic and non-psychiatric medications, and under supervision, inmates administer their own medications. Other medical needs are met by an individual medical response or by the inmate being escorted to the Main Jail where more extensive medical services are available.

Response: Board of Supervisors DISAGREES.

The County does not agree with the finding that there is minimal access to medical services at the facility. In addition to the daily nurse visits, medical services are readily available at the Main Jail adjacent to the facility. Blaine Street inmates can be escorted to the Main Jail Clinic in just a few minutes, and nurses at the Main Jail can respond to Blaine Street very quickly if needed.

Response: Sheriff PARTIALLY AGREES.

Sheriff partially agrees with the findings. Access to medical services at the Main Jail are convenient and cost-efficient since an inmate can be escorted to the Main Clinic in just a few minutes. Nurses at the Main Jail clinic can also respond to Blaine Street rapidly as it is adjacent to the Main Jail.

Staff consists of one assigned Supervising Detention Officer and two Detention Officer positions assigned on a rotating basis from the Main Jail staff. Scheduling does not allow for more than one officer on duty at any given time, unless the Supervising Detention Officer is on site. During evenings and on weekends, only one officer is on duty for the entire facility. A single staff member may not effectively monitor inmate safety and conduct and still provide services necessary to efficiently operate the facility.

Response: Board of Supervisors DISAGREES.

The County does not agree with the findings related to the sufficiency of staffing levels at Blaine Street. The accepted ratio of officers to inmates at this type of facility is one officer for fifty/sixty inmates. This ratio is used for the direct supervision units at the Medium and Minimum Security Rountree facilities as well as the Blaine Street facility. The County believes that the existing staffing level is sufficient to effectively and safely manage the facility.

Response: Sheriff AGREES.

Sheriff agrees with the findings. However, most correctional facilities run direct-supervision units (i.e., where the officer is in the housing unit with the inmates) with an accepted ratio of one officer-per-fifty/sixty inmates. This same ratio applies to the direct supervision units at the Medium and Minimum Security Rountree facilities.

Staff turnover remains high. Sixty staff persons have left in the last three years with a high percentage of the Detention Officers becoming Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Deputies. The starting salary for a Detention Officer is \$15.22 per hour plus benefits. It costs Santa Cruz County approximately \$17,000 to train a new Detention Officer. Instruction involves 12 weeks of in-house training, which includes job shadowing, followed by four weeks at a Correctional Academy.

Response: Board of Supervisors DISAGREES.

The County does not agree with the findings related to the sufficiency of staffing levels at Blaine Street. The accepted ratio of officers to inmates at this type of facility is one officer for fifty/sixty inmates. This ratio is used for the direct supervision units at the Medium and Minimum Security Rountree facilities as well as the Blaine Street facility. The County believes that the existing staffing level is sufficient to effectively and safely manage the facility.

Response: Sheriff AGREES.

Recommendations

4. Staff positions to full complement to provide relief for vacations, training and illness.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being implemented. The County Personnel Department is working with the Sheriff's Office and has developed expedited and enhanced recruiting and testing strategies to address this issue which includes on the spot testing each work day from 8 am until 5 pm.

Response: Sheriff

The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will hopefully be implemented within the next year. For several years, there has not been full staffing in the Detention Bureau and enhanced recruiting and testing efforts are being made.

5. Fund additional bilingual Detention Officers.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being implemented. Of the ten Detention Officers hired during the past year, 50% were Spanish speakers. The County and the Sheriff's Office are committed to recruiting bi-lingual and bi-cultural officers.

Response: Sheriff

The recommendation has been already implemented and the Detention Bureau continues to make strong efforts to recruit bilingual and bicultural officers. In the last year, the Sheriff's Office hired ten Detention Officers and 50% are Spanish-speakers.

6. Provide a bonus program to enhance pay and benefits to ease the attrition rate.

Response: Board of Supervisors

Pay and benefit issues are mandatory subjects of bargaining. The County and the various unions are currently in negotiation on these issues.

Response: Sheriff

The recommendation has not yet been implemented. The Correctional Officers are currently in labor negotiations for a new Memorandum of Understanding. The Correctional Officers current pay schedule is not comparable with most surrounding counties in the Central Coast and South Bay Area. The attrition rate continues to remain high as many of the younger officers seek assignments to patrol officer duties.

7. Establish a competitive salary schedule for the Sheriff-Coroner's Office, in line with other Central Coast counties.

Response: Board of Supervisors

Pay and benefit issues are mandatory subjects of bargaining. The County and the various unions are currently in negotiation on these issues. The County does conduct total compensation reviews based on nine comparable counties which include Monterey, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Contra Costa, Fresno, Solano, Napa, Marin, and Sonoma.

Response: Sheriff

The recommendation has not yet been implemented. All uniformed bargaining units of the Sheriff's Office are currently in labor negotiations with the County of Santa Cruz.

Juvenile Hall – Page 11

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

Response Received: September 26, 2000

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

Response Received: None Received

Findings

Youths in the Santa Cruz County Juvenile Justice System suffer from a high rate of gang involvement and heroin use as compared to other communities in California. In recognition of these problems, Santa Cruz County participates as one of 12 state-funded gang violence suppression projects. With the ward population growing and gang tension increasing, the need to solve the crowding and gang problems became a major concern for those working within the Juvenile Hall system. For several years the community and county government

addressed the issue of overcrowding. A classification system for the youths was developed in 1995 and it is working well given the facility's space limitations.

Santa Cruz County Juvenile Hall has become a "neutral zone" for juvenile gangs. The wards of the Court recognize Juvenile Hall as a place where they are safe from gang attacks and recruitment. Graffiti is controlled, fights are at a minimum and staff normally feels safe. The Juvenile Hall facility provides youths the opportunities to learn valuable life skills, earn a high school diploma, begin the journey of self-development, and discover an awareness of the harm they have done to their families, communities and victims.

The average population in 1999-2000 was 38.8 youths. The population ages range from 12 to 18 and are divided into the two units. In "A" unit are the older, more sophisticated boys who have committed more serious crimes, and "B" unit houses girls and younger boys. All rooms are single, though at times of overcrowding, residents double up with one sleeping on a mat on the floor. The rooms are small with a sink and drinking fountain. Each room is illuminated all night with a four-watt bulb. In 1995, a courtroom was added to the facility. Youths follow a daily schedule that begins with wake-up at 6 a.m., breakfast and start of classes at 8:30 a.m., lunch at noon, and classes ending around 2:45 p.m. Scheduled activities in "A" and "B" unit are from 3 to 4:30 p.m., dinner is 5 p.m. with evening hours dedicated to sports, board games and church groups. Youths return to their rooms with lights out by 9:30 p.m. It costs \$1.65 per day to feed the youths breakfast, lunch and dinner. Meals are supervised by the County Health Services Agency. Visiting days are Tuesdays and Saturdays for one unit, and Wednesdays and Sundays for the other unit.

Even though the facility is nearly 30 years old, it has a fresh, clean appearance. The biggest problem staff faces is finding the space and time to implement all of the programs they would like to offer. Educational and recreational programming is interesting and relevant and not just a means by which to keep the youths busy. Implementation of the classification system has allowed the facility to be much more flexible and creative in the types of activities presented to the youths. Because of the system, the youths are able to leave the facility to use an adjacent County park baseball diamond for recreation and to use the large recreation areas outside the secure courtyard to play volleyball. These areas were completely unused for several years prior to classification.

The "gang free zone" philosophy has allowed Juvenile Hall, with the cooperation of the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, to depart from a "one room schoolhouse" approach to a station-teaching approach. This resembles a regular high school where students move from one classroom to another for different subjects, greatly enhancing the education program. The Western Association of Schools and Colleges accredits the program. The education program has helped improve the use of the facility and strengthen the staff. The General Education Diploma (GED) program began three years ago and youths are allowed to graduate from "Hartman School". It is a very special event when a youth graduates from the Juvenile Hall school.

The staff includes ten men and seven women; nine are bilingual, while eight have worked at the facility less than one year. The starting pay is \$12 per hour and there is constant turnover. Two Senior Group Supervisors are responsible for the daily programming for each of the units. Their duties include developing a weekly calendar of programs for each unit. The supervisors are responsible for inviting and arranging guest speakers, musical groups, and

play productions. Programs have been expanded to include meditation, yoga, instruction by a chess instructor, writing classes, victim awareness, anger management, job readiness, Planned Parenthood discussions, Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous.

The facility has nine infrastructure improvements planned at a cost of \$818,000. Santa Cruz County is allocating \$700,000. The remaining \$118,000, will be allocated from County resources. Future projects include a 1,050-square foot medical unit near the "A" unit with a separate examination room, restroom and mental health area; shower room renovation; changes in the direction of the swing of room doors to allow for Port-A-Bunks; improved security fencing near the Redwoods mental health facility; replacement of all lighting; removal and replacement of floor tiles containing asbestos; and, replacement of hot and cold water pipes.

Medical staff is available 11 hours per day, 77 hours per week for nursing and 64 hours per week of mental health staffing. The facility will not accept youths with serious medical conditions. A substance abuse specialist will join the staff in 2000.

Response: Board of Supervisors AGREES.

The Board of Supervisors has allocated \$700,000 for facility improvements and would need to consider any additional allocation upon presentation of a recommendation by the Probation Department.

Recommendations

1. Staff positions to full complement to provide relief for vacations, training and illness.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation has been implemented. The current staffing by 17 Group Supervisors and extra-help positions provides five Group Supervisors on each of the day and swing shifts, and one Group Supervisor on each unit during the graveyard shift. This staffing pattern complies with State Standards. The County will continue to monitor population levels to ensure that State Standards are being maintained.

2. Provide a bonus program to enhance pay and benefits to ease the attrition rate.

Response: Board of Supervisors

Pay and benefit issues are mandatory subjects of bargaining. The County and the various unions are currently in negotiation on these issues. The department continues to work with the Personnel Department to ensure that sufficient staffing is available to maintain necessary staffing levels.

3. Establish a competitive salary schedule for the County Probation Department Juvenile Hall staff, in line with other Central Coast counties.

Response: Board of Supervisors

Pay and benefit issues are mandatory subjects of bargaining. Recent contract negotiations resulted in an equity adjustment for Probation Department staff. The County conducts total compensation reviews based on nine comparable counties which include Monterey, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Contra Costa, Fresno, Solano, Napa, Marin, and Sonoma.

4. Fund construction of an indoor gymnasium.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation has not been implemented due to lack of available funding. However, funds from the State for renovation and construction of Juvenile Detention facilities may be available in the upcoming year, at which time the opportunity will be submitted for the Board of Supervisors' consideration.

5. Fund 24-hour nursing staff.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation has not been implemented, but will be considered as part of the 2000-01 County budget process. Medical staff are currently available twelve hours per day, seven days per week. The Probation Department and the Health Services Agency will complete a feasibility study during the next six months to determine whether additional medical staff is warranted. Laura Garnette, Assistant Superintendent, will act as lead person on this study. The results of the study will be used in preparing the Proposed Budget for submittal to the Board of Supervisors.

Main Jail Facility – Page 14

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

Response Received: September 26, 2000

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

Response Received: September 26, 2000

Findings

The Santa Cruz County detention system includes the Main Jail, the Blaine Street Facility for Women in the City of Santa Cruz, and the Rountree Medium and Minimum Detention Facilities in the South County near Watsonville. The California State Board of Corrections conducts inspections of the facilities biannually.

The Main Jail operates on a \$13 million budget. The County is reimbursed \$8 million from internally generated revenues, federal and state funding and from grants. It costs \$55 a day to house and feed an inmate.

Improvements were made to the facility using a \$990,000 grant from the State Board of Corrections to upgrade the electronic security system. The new programmable logic control system allows remote shutdown of the facilities. Utilizing a \$170,000 grant, improvements to enhance the housing area showers and visiting areas will be completed in spring 2000.

Response: Board of Supervisors AGREES.

The County agrees with this finding, with the clarification that the actual amount of the first grant from the Board of Corrections for the security electronics project at the Main Jail was \$995,550. The County provided a \$110,617 in matching funds for a total cost of \$1,106,167. The second Board of Corrections grant of \$173,556 will be used to make various improvements and add showers in various housing units, visiting rooms, and to expand the dayroom area for selected units.

Response: Sheriff AGREES.

The Sheriff agrees with the findings. The actual amount of the first grant from the Board of Corrections for the security electronics project at the Main Jail was \$995,550. In addition, the County was required to provide a \$110,617 matching contribution for a total cost of \$1,106,167. The second Board of Corrections grant award is \$173,556. These funds will be used to make improvements and add showers in various housing units, visiting rooms, and expand dayroom area for selected units. As a result of these improvements, the Board of Corrections will increase the rated capacity of the Main Jail from 249 inmates to 322 inmates (an increase of 62 rated beds). It is anticipated the second grant project will be completed in late spring of 2001.

There is a fully-equipped courtroom on the premises that is underutilized. A law library is also available to inmates.

Response: Board of Supervisors PARTIALLY AGREES.

The County partially agrees with this finding. The Court has jurisdiction regarding the deployment of judicial resources, and the County believes that the Court plans to initiate full-time criminal proceedings at the Main Jail in 2001. It is also noted that there is no computer room at the Main Jail.

Response: Sheriff AGREES.

The Sheriff agrees with the findings. However, the Court Administrator has informed the Sheriff's Office that full-time criminal court proceedings will be initiated in Department 11 at the Main Jail around January 2001.

The facility's computer room is not being utilized because of lack of staffing to supervise its use. In the past, there has been misuse of computers by inmates.

Response: Sheriff DISAGREES.

The Sheriff disagrees with this finding. There is no computer room at the Main Jail and Main Jail inmates do not have access to computers. The Grand Jury may be referring to the computer room at the Rountree Medium Security Facility. There is a classroom that is not utilized at the Main Jail for inmate programs. The Board of Supervisors has approved the addition of a Sheriff's Inmate Programs Director for fiscal year 2000-01. One of the new Director's goals will be to start up regular program offerings at the Main Jail.

Drug and alcohol abuse remain the leading crimes involving incarcerated inmates. Officers continue to use breath analyzers to obtain more accurate readings on Driving Under Influence offenders during booking. A growing proportion of arrestees are younger and more violent. There is a presence of prison-based gangs, and suspected gang members are segregated into different housing areas.

Response: Sheriff AGREES.

The Sheriff agrees with the findings. Average daily population for the Main Jail in 1999 was 322 inmates. Total average daily populations for all detention facilities in 1999 was 582.

The Main Jail houses inmates incarcerated for serious and violent crimes. It is also a holding facility for inmates awaiting trial. Inmates considered a "suicide risk" are also confined here.

Male and female inmates are confined in separate housing areas with an average incarceration stay of 20 days. The Sheriff's Deputies and Detention Officers do not carry firearms. The facility has 400 bunks and the average daily population in 1999 in the Main Jail facility was 300. The average daily population at all detention facilities was 600. The Sheriff's Office instituted a wrist and photo identification system for all inmates in 1998.

Response: Board of Supervisors AGREES.

The average daily population for the Main Jail in 1999 was 323 inmates. The total average daily population for all detention facilities was 582.

Kitchen facilities are adequate and inmates are fed in their housing areas rather than in a central area. It costs \$1 million a year to feed the inmate population, averaging \$1.00 per meal. The Health Services Agency (HSA) oversees and supervises the daily menu for inmates.

Response: Sheriff PARTIALLY AGREES.

The Sheriff partially disagrees with the findings. The kitchen facilities at the Main Jail are inadequate for the current average daily population and were designed to feed 92 inmates, not 322. The Board of Supervisors has approved funds to be used for a design study for kitchen replacement in this fiscal year. Sheriff agrees with the cost of feeding inmates and average cost per meal.

The Main Jail has not experienced a successful escape in a number of years. The Main Jail population increases during the summer months and decreases during the winter months. Inmates can remain in the jail for up to one year. Female inmates housed at Main Jail comprise about 8 percent of the total inmate population at all facilities.

Response: Sheriff AGREES.

HSA is contracted to operate a 24-hour clinic on site. It is not an infirmary. The local hospital will not accept mentally ill persons who have been charged with a crime.

Response: Sheriff AGREES.

The Sheriff agrees with the findings. It should also be noted that Mental Health services and staff are located in the clinic as well. There is no other facility in Santa Cruz County to house mentally ill inmates and there is a designated housing unit for them at the Main Jail. The Sheriff's Office was recently awarded a Board of Corrections grant for Mentally Ill Offenders to provide enhanced mental health services to address this population's unique needs and provide intensive follow-up by Mental Health (HSA) and Probation staff upon release.

Staffing currently averages 117 correctional officers at the four county detention facilities. The staff at the Main Jail includes a Lieutenant, Sheriff's Deputies, Detention Officers, Mental Health Officers, and a medical team consisting of a physician, dentist and nurse. Detention Officers face a range of issues on a daily basis: contagious disease control (hepatitis, tuberculosis and HIV); suicide attempts, especially by drug users and third-strike inmates; contraband drugs, tobacco, and handcuff keys; and, attempted escapes, primarily when inmates are transferred from the jail to the Government Center and vice-versa.

Response: Sheriff AGREES.

Staff turnover remains high. Sixty staff persons have left in the last three years with a high percentage of the Detention Officers becoming Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Deputies. The starting salary for a Detention Officer is \$15.22 per hour plus benefits. It costs Santa Cruz County approximately \$17,000 to train a new Detention Officer. Officer preparation includes 12 weeks of in-house training, which includes job shadowing, followed by four weeks spent at a Correctional Academy.

Recommendations

1. Staff positions to full complement to provide relief for vacations, training and illness.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being implemented. The County Personnel Department is working with the Sheriff's Office and has developed enhanced recruiting and testing strategies to address this issue.

Response: Sheriff

The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will hopefully be implemented within the next year. For several years, there has not been full staffing in the Detention Bureau and enhanced recruiting and testing efforts are being made.

2. Fund additional bilingual Detention Officers.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation has been implemented. Of the ten Detention Officers hired during the past year, 50% were Spanish speakers. The County and the Sheriff's Office are committed to recruiting bi-lingual and bi-cultural officers.

Response: Sheriff

The recommendation has been already implemented and the Detention Bureau continues to make strong efforts to recruit bilingual and bicultural officers. In the last year, the Sheriff's Office hired ten Detention Officers and 50% are Spanish-speakers.

3. Provide a bonus program to enhance pay and benefits to ease the attrition rate.

Response: Board of Supervisors

Pay and benefit issues are mandatory subjects of bargaining. The County and the various unions are currently in negotiation on these issues.

Response: Sheriff

The recommendation has not yet been implemented. The Correctional Officers are currently in labor negotiations for a new Memorandum of Understanding. The Correctional Officers current pay schedule is not comparable with most surrounding counties in the Central Coast and South Bay Area. The attrition rate continues to remain high as many of the younger officers seek assignments to patrol officer duties.

4. Establish a competitive salary schedule for the Sheriff-Coroner's Office, in line with other Central Coast counties.

Response: Board of Supervisors

Pay and benefit issues are mandatory subjects of bargaining. The County and the various unions are currently in negotiation on these issues. The County does conduct total compensation reviews based on nine comparable counties which include Monterey, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Contra Costa, Fresno, Solano, Napa, Marin, and Sonoma.

Response: Sheriff

The recommendation has not yet been implemented. All uniformed bargaining units of the Sheriff's Office are currently in labor negotiations with the County of Santa Cruz.

Rountree Medium Security Detention Facility – Page 17

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

Response Received: September 26, 2000

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

Response Received: September 26, 2000

Findings

Placement of male inmates at the medium security facility is determined at the Main Jail.

Detention/Classification officers are responsible for handling the disciplinary actions, and have the ability to reclassify inmates as warranted. Classification at this complex is ongoing and helps facilitate inmate movement between the three detention facilities (Main Jail, Medium Security and Minimum Security).

Response: Sheriff AGREES.

Sheriff agrees with the findings. The classification and disciplinary system is a dynamic process that addresses ongoing security and safety needs of the inmates and staff. The Detention staff does an excellent job in balancing these concerns.

This facility provides needed overcrowding relief for the Main Jail. The average length of stay is 90 to 120 days and the maximum length of stay is up to 365 days. To be eligible for this facility, inmates must qualify based on a point system at the Main Jail. Inmates who receive fewer than five points are housed at the minimum facility while those who have received five or more points are housed at the medium facility. After serving their sentences, illegal aliens are held for a maximum of 48 hours and then released if not taken into custody by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Response: Sheriff AGREES.

The Rountree facility is rated by the State Board of Corrections to house 96 inmates. There are two separate dormitory-style housing units. Funding and staffing to open the second housing unit was approved by the Board of Supervisors in 1998, and the unit opened in February 1999. Each unit consists of six sleeping bays and one bay is used as a television area. Each unit has a common-use toilet/shower area and a small meeting room. Visitor rooms are available, but only by appointment. The Medium Security Detention Facility is self-contained with its own generator and is supplied by well water. The facility has a septic tank for sewage.

Response: Sheriff AGREES.

A Detention Officer's station is located in each housing unit with a central monitoring system, enabling direct supervision 24 hours a day. The nurse's station is staffed by a Registered Nurse and provides medical services for inmates four hours in the morning and four hours in the afternoon for a total of 40 hours a week. The Board of Supervisors funded the nurse's position in 1998 and the position was filled in 1999. There are three examination rooms available for use.

Classrooms are available for inmates to study and participate in programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, HIV Class, English as a Second Language, Substance Abuse, Job Skills, and Bible Study. A law library is also available to inmates. Instruction is provided by a number of agencies, including the Pajaro Valley Unified School District's Adult Education program and Santa Cruz County Office of Education's Regional Occupational Program. Inmates are required to attend classes and can earn certificates for completing these programs. Some programs offer graduation ceremonies at the facility.

Response: Sheriff AGREES.

Sheriff agrees with these findings. Inmate graduation ceremonies are well-attended and former inmates will sometimes come to the graduations to get their certificates.

All meals for the medium and minimum facilities are prepared in the state-of-the-art stainless steel kitchen at the medium facility. Inmates in the minimum facility taking classes in food preparation assist in preparing meals. The meals appear to be well balanced. The food services staff has a barbecue pit for cooking use if the power is lost. The kitchen floor is worn and needs replacement. The Board of Supervisors has approved funding to replace the floor, which has yet to be completed. Inmates have structured chores and are responsible for all janitorial and landscaping services. The facility is exceptionally clean and well maintained.

Response: Sheriff AGREES.

Sheriff agrees with these findings. At the time of this response, the kitchen floor at the Medium facility is being replaced.

Staffing currently averages 117 correctional officers at the four county detention facilities. The staff at the Main Jail includes a Lieutenant, Sheriff's Deputies, Detention Officers, Mental Health Officers, and a medical team consisting of a physician, dentist and nurse. Detention Officers face a range of issues on a daily basis: contagious disease control (hepatitis, tuberculosis and HIV); suicide attempts, especially by drug users and third-strike inmates; contraband drugs, tobacco, and handcuff keys; and, attempted escapes, primarily when inmates are transferred from the jail to the Government Center and vice-versa.

Response: Sheriff AGREES.

Staff turnover remains high. Sixty staff persons have left in the last three years with a high percentage of the Detention Officers becoming Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Deputies. The starting salary for a Detention Officer is \$15.22 per hour plus benefits. It costs Santa Cruz County approximately \$17,000 to train a new Detention Officer. Officer preparation includes 12 weeks of in-house training, which includes job shadowing, followed by four weeks spent at a Correctional Academy.

Response: Sheriff AGREES.

Response: Board of Supervisors AGREES with all findings.

Recommendations

1. Replace worn flooring in kitchen. Funding has been approved.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation has been implemented and will be completed by the end of the calendar year.

Response: Sheriff

The recommendation has been implemented and should be completed within the next thirty days.

2. Staff positions to full complement to provide relief for vacations, training and illness.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being implemented. The County Personnel Department is working with the Sheriff's Office and has developed enhanced recruiting and testing strategies to address this issue.

Response: Sheriff

The recommendation has not yet been implemented but will hopefully be implemented within the coming year. Enhanced recruiting and testing efforts are being made.

3. Fund additional bilingual Correctional Officers.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being implemented. Of the ten Correctional Officers hired during the past year, 50% were Spanish speakers. The County and the

Sheriff's Office are committed to recruiting bi-lingual and bi-cultural officers.

Response: Sheriff

The recommendation has been implemented and the Detention Bureau continues to emphasize MP recruitment of qualified bilingual (and bicultural) officers. In the last year, the Detention Bureau hired ten Correctional Officers; 50% were Spanish-speakers.

4. Provide a bonus program to enhance pay and benefits to ease the attrition rate.

Response: Board of Supervisors

Pay and benefit issues are mandatory subjects of bargaining. The County and the various unions are currently in negotiation on these issues.

Response: Sheriff

The recommendation has not yet been implemented. The Correctional Officers are currently in labor negotiations with the County of Santa Cruz. Attrition rate continues to remain high.

5. Establish a competitive salary schedule for the Sheriff-Coroner's Office, in line with other Central Coast counties.

Response: Board of Supervisors

Pay and benefit issues are mandatory subjects of bargaining. The County and the various unions are currently in negotiation on these issues. The County does conduct total compensation reviews based on nine comparable counties which include Monterey, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Contra Costa, Fresno, Solano, Napa, Marin, and Sonoma.

Response: Sheriff

This recommendation has not been implemented. All uniformed bargaining units of the Sheriff's Office are currently in labor negotiations with the County.

Health and Human Services Committee Reports

Adult, Family and Children's Services – Page 25

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

Response Received: September 26, 2000

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Office of Education

Response Received: August 31, 2000

Findings

Response: Board of Supervisors PARTIALLY AGREES.

The County agrees with the Grand Jury findings with the exceptions and clarifications noted below. It is also noted that, in the Grand Jury's background section, some of the persons who met with the Grand Jury are incorrectly identified. The Grand Jury interviewed the County Administrative Officer, the Human Resources Agency Administrator, the Adult, Family and Children's Services Division Director and members of the staff including two Program Managers for Child Welfare Services.

Child welfare services in California are administered under Federal and State mandates and County procedural requirements. In combination, these layers of governmental oversight set standards and impose compliance and reporting requirements. Children come into the care of CWS following the investigation of a report of parental neglect or abuse. The child is placed in a foster home while the parents receive services to help them reunify with the child. If the parents are unable to attain the goals set for reunification within the time specified, parental rights are terminated and the court designates a special advocate who will monitor the child's care. The child becomes the administrative responsibility of the Permanency-Planning Unit of CWS. The child will be placed in a relative's home, an adoptive home or a long-term foster care home.

Response: Board of Supervisors

The County would like to provide clarification to the Grand Jury's finding that "Children come into the care of CWS following the investigation of a report of parental neglect or abuse. The child is placed in a foster home while the parents receive services to help them reunify with the child." It is important to note that investigations of neglect or abuse do not always lead to out-of-home placement. In FY 99-00, 3,300 children received an in-person investigation, but only 175 of these children were placed in out-of-home care. The department determined that the remainder of these children could remain safely in their parents' homes with crisis intervention and brief services, or with longer term in-home supervision services.

The County would also like to provide clarification to the Grand Jury's finding that "If the parents are unable to attain the goals set for reunification within the time specified, parental rights are terminated and the court designates a special advocate who will monitor the child's care." First, if parents do not attain the goals set for reunification, parental rights are terminated only if the agency is able to place the child for adoption. If there are significant obstacles to adoption which make this impossible, the child is placed in the most permanent situation available, which may be guardianship or long-term foster care. Placement is made with a relative if an appropriate relative can be found. If

the permanent plan is guardianship or long-term foster care rather than adoption, parental rights are not terminated as this would make the child a legal orphan. In addition, the report implies that a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) is appointed only after parental rights are terminated. In fact, the court may appoint a CASA at any time after the filing of a petition. The role of a CASA is not to monitor the child's care, but to provide support and advocacy for the child throughout his or her involvement in the Child Welfare system.

Up to 80% of CWS cases have drug or alcohol problems at the root. In the current fiscal year, 300 children are in foster homes. Of these 300 children, 40% may be reunified with their families. Sixty percent will receive Permanency Planning Services. Permanent arrangements include adoption for about 30%, foster homes with guardianship status for 25%, and long-term foster care for the remaining 45%.

For any given child, these arrangements are not always stable. Sixteen percent of the children reunified with parents are returned to foster care. Twenty percent of the children in foster homes require yet another placement. Nine percent of the children placed in the home of a relative are returned to be cared for in a foster home. Subsequent placement into foster homes is necessary when family situations deteriorate, when foster parents become unable or unwilling to continue to care for a child, when relatives find they are unable to continue to keep the child, or when adoptive placements cannot be sustained.

All children "age out" of child welfare services at age 18. They are no longer eligible for health, mental health or other County services. Many of them find themselves homeless. Studies have shown that within two to five years of "aging out", fewer than 50% have completed high school, 25% have suffered homelessness, fewer than 50% are employed, 60% of the young women have given birth, and less than 20% are completely self-supporting.

Response: Board of Supervisors

The County would like to provide additional clarification to the Grand Jury's finding that when children "age out" of foster care at age 18, "they are no longer eligible for health, mental health, or other County services." This is not necessarily the case. If a youth has not yet graduated from high school, his or her dependency and the associated services, continue until age 19. Furthermore, new legislation (effective October 1, 2000) enables former foster youth to remain eligible for Medi-Cal funded health and mental health services until age 21. After the 21st birthday, the young adult may continue to qualify for health, mental health, and other County services by meeting the income eligibility requirements for these services.

Improved services are being developed and funded at the State and Federal level. At the State level, Proposition 10 (tobacco money) will fund community-based nonprofit organizations, some of which are already collaborating with the County Adult, Family and Children's Services program. These new services include New Families, Inc., which will place infants and toddlers in stable foster homes while parents are completing court-ordered treatment programs. The agency, Options for Recovery provides respite care and other services for caregivers of infants and toddlers who were prenatally exposed to alcohol or drugs or who test HIV-positive.

Federal legislation, the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 (HR3443), will provide additional funding to states and require services for foster youth be continued until at least age 21. Further support is possible to help with living expenses for teenagers to complete education plans and for job-skills training. Transitional living programs will be increased to fund local, community-based programs for residential care, life-skills training, and other support services to homeless adolescents. Medicaid eligibility can also be continued at the individual state's option. Financial assistance to support adoptions, including tax credits for adopting families, is also covered in the legislation.

Response: County Office of Education AGREES with the findings.

Recommendations

1. Continue efforts to reduce a child's exposure to the ill effects of multiple foster home placements.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation has been implemented. The Human Resources Agency makes every effort to locate stable foster placements and to minimize the number of foster placements for any given child.

2. Increase wherever possible the placement of children within the family's kinship.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation has been implemented. The Human Resources Agency makes every effort to locate suitable placements with relatives for dependent children.

3. Maintain the child's ties to kin as may be appropriate, when non-related placements are necessary.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation has been implemented. The Human Resources Agency makes every effort to maintain the child's ties to relatives through regular visitation when non-relative placements are necessary.

4. Continue to work with Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) to provide each child with a person who can maintain a continuous relationship with the child through the changes in agency personnel and changes in living arrangements.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation has been implemented. The Human Resources Agency continues to work with CASA to provide support and advocacy for children in the Juvenile Court system.

5. Pursue the options available through HR3443 to continue health care eligibility for "aging out" foster youths.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation will be implemented. HR3443 is federal legislation that will be administered by the State. Prior to implementation, it will be necessary for the State to pass enabling legislation and regulations. When the State has taken these actions, the

Human Resources Agency will pursue the options available through HR3443 to continue health care eligibility for “aging out” foster youths.

6. Implement appropriate provisions in HR3443 to strengthen Child Welfare Services.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation will be implemented pending the State’s adoption of enabling legislation and regulations.

7. Include appropriate school personnel in each child’s treatment team.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation has been implemented. The Human Resources Agency makes every effort to include school personnel in the team of professionals who assist dependent children. For example, school personnel are interviewed during the investigations for abuse or neglect, Child Welfare social workers attend regular meetings of school personnel for children with Individual Educational Plans (IEP’S), and school personnel are invited to attend our Interagency Placement Committee, which monitors placements and treatment plans for dependent children.

Response: County Office of Education

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education continues to seek innovative and creative ways, either through existing programs or new ones, to support neglected and abused adolescents. Through our Alternative Education Department, we have developed partnerships and written grants that have specifically targeted this population. Our existing partnerships with Group Home Society, Mental Health, the Santa Cruz Community Counseling Clinic, Human Resources Agency and the Above the Line School depict our commitment to this population. In each of the aforementioned collaboratives, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education provides intensive educational services, counseling, vocational education assistance and transitional support. Many neglected and abused students are afforded subsidized work opportunities through various County Office initiated grants; receive scholarships to college upon graduation; and work with trained vocational counselors for career assessments. County Office of Education personnel are active participants at treatment team meetings.

Our newly funded Workforce Investment Act Grant will allow us to strengthen and improve upon existing services to low income dropouts who are involved with child welfare services. The Alternative Education Program has received a \$700,000 two-year grant from the Human Resources Agency's Career Works to implement the educational component of the Workforce Investment Act. Educational services and additional support services will be provided to youth ages 14 to 21 who are income eligible and fall with one or more targeted categories including, homeless, runaway or foster children.

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education, through the Alternative Education Department, is also the successful recipient of a Foster Youth Service Grant. This grant has allowed us to monitor, track, support and develop "educational passports" for children who reside 'in group and foster homes. This new and unique program has been extremely meaningful in the creation of wrap-around and follow-up services.

The Program Coordinator of the County Office of Education's Migrant Head Start Program is our representative member on the Children and Families First Commission. The Commission has made a specific point to reach out to the foster care community with a vision to attempt to address the specific needs of that community.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission – Page 28

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

Response Received: September 26, 2000

Findings

Response: Board of Supervisors PARTIALLY AGREES, exceptions are noted below.

The Commission by-laws were amended to reduce the number of commissioners representing a supervisorial district from three to two. In order for matters requiring a vote to be acted on, a quorum of six commissioners must be present at a meeting.

The commissioners, in addition to representing a district, have responsibility for reviewing the various programs that are funded, at least in part, with County monies. The programs encompass a variety of services from prevention and drug education to residential and outpatient programs that are designed to respond to the needs of the county.

Each commissioner has liaison responsibility for assigned groups of providers. Providers are invited to describe their services at a meeting of the Commission. This practice enables all commissioners to become knowledgeable about the services in the County. Commissioners also serve as members of committees that relate to alcohol, budget, cultural competence, drugs, drinking driver programs, information and education programs and provider relations. The Commission has set goals for the year 2000 as listed in its annual report:

- Maintain consistent contact and improve working relationships with local officials, including the Board of Supervisors.
- Discuss the Commission's role in light of consolidation of alcohol/drug and mental health administrative services, review reports on the process of the consolidation, and advise the Board of Supervisors accordingly.
- Review the Commissioner's job description, role, and work in the community.
- Review how to work more effectively with service providers and advocate for more and better chemical dependency services.
- Monitor contract service providers for culturally appropriate services and implement the goals of the Cultural Competence Framework related to diversity.
- Review specific issues in the alcohol and drug field, including:
 - Alcohol and drug-related deaths, violence and traffic crashes
 - Dual diagnosis
 - Challenging the drug war paradigm
 - Decriminalization of drug possession
 - Truth in research and education

The Civil Grand Jury endorses the following recommendations in the Commission's Annual Report for 1999:

- The Commission recommends that the Board of Supervisors make timely appointments to fill vacant Commission seats.

Response: Board of Supervisors DISAGREES.

The County disagrees with this finding. Appointments to Commissions by the Board of Supervisors are made on a timely basis as applications are received.

- The Commission recommends an increase in communication with the Board of Supervisors and increase in the Board's responsiveness to Commission requests.

Response: Board of Supervisors DISAGREES.

The County disagrees with this finding. It is the responsibility of Commission members to communicate with individual Board members and with the Board of Supervisors as a whole. The County believes that the Board of Supervisors has always responded quickly and appropriately to Commission requests.

- The Health Services Agency and the Board of Supervisors should continue to advocate for substance abuse prevention and treatment services without regard to pressure from alcohol industry companies or representatives.

Recommendations

1. Pursue the development of a Juvenile Drug Court.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being implemented. The Health Services Agency's Alcohol and Drug Program is currently administering a Federal planning grant for determining the feasibility of developing a Juvenile Drug Court in Santa Cruz County. The Drug Court Steering Committee, which includes representatives from the Courts, the District Attorney, the Public Defender, the Probation Department, the County Administrative Office, and the Criminal Justice Council, will make recommendations on the feasibility of a Juvenile Drug Court when the planning grant has been completed.

2. Continue development of a residential drug treatment program for adolescents.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation has been implemented. The Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center successfully bid on a County contract to develop a residential drug treatment program for adolescents, has obtained a site, hired a program manager, and submitted a license application to the State Department of Social Services. It is anticipated that the program will open in the fall of 2000.

3. Pursue the development of an emergency facility other than Juvenile Hall for the temporary detention of young people by the County of Santa Cruz.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation requires further analysis. The Commission has placed the item on their September 2000 agenda for discussion.

River Street Homeless Shelter – Page 33

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

Response Received: September 26, 2000

Findings

The Shelter is open from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 a.m. There are 32 beds, six beds per room. At about 4:30 p.m. homeless individuals begin to gather at the rear entrance of the River Street Shelter. These persons are met by a staff member and are screened for admission. All homeless are welcome but are selected for the shelter based on prioritized needs. Beds are filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Some beds are reserved for crisis referrals from Dominican Hospital Mental Health Unit, and the Dual Diagnosis program of the County Drug and Alcohol Services Unit. The maximum stay is 30 days. There are exceptions to this for persons with extenuating circumstances.

There are a laundry facility, kitchen, dining area, and outside patio area. Two meals a day are served with the residents helping with the cooking and clean up. This is a clean and sober environment. No fees are charged.

There is currently one staff person assigned on rotation to perform night duty. If a client should have a psychotic episode, it is difficult for the one staff person to control this problem. He or she may not be able to physically control the client and may have to call 911 for help. There is also a potential for false sexual abuse claims against the staff. The shelter has experienced many inebriated persons who have wandered on site, which causes concern with only one person on night duty.

Response: Board of Supervisors AGREES.

Recommendations

1. Provide another staff person in order to have more than one staff person on duty at night.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation has been implemented. During the 2000-01 budget hearings, the Board of Supervisors approved additional funding which now provides for 1.75 FTE (10 hours x 7 days) in Night Supervisor staffing. This makes it possible to have two staff on duty every night at the Shelter.

TRIAD – Page 34

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

Response Received: September 26, 2000

Findings

Response: Board of Supervisors PARTIALLY AGREES, exceptions are noted below.

Chemical Dependency Services include recovery groups, dual-diagnosis treatment, confidential drug testing and a drinking driver program.

Emotional Health Services provides counseling for individuals, families, and programs for parenting skills and workplace problems. The agency contracts with various schools to provide counseling services for drug-involved youth. Mental health services to individuals

and couples are provided on a sliding fee scale. Services to CalWorks' clients are subsidized by CalWorks.

The Methadone Maintenance Treatment program is long term and tailored to meet individual needs. Clients must have a two-year history of opiate addiction and at least two or more unsuccessful attempts to detoxify with a subsequent relapse. The cost of the methadone program is \$335 per month for maintenance and \$300 for a 21-day detoxification. Minors are not allowed in the maintenance program.

Response: Board of Supervisors PARTIALLY AGREES.

Triad, like many other methadone clinics in California, has received an exception from the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs to allow it, upon approval of the clinic's medical director, to admit opiate addicts who have less than a two-year history of opiate addiction and fewer than two previous treatment failures.

Methadone Recovery is a new 12-step program for heroin-addicted individuals. This means that although the recipient of methadone is still dependent, perhaps for life, that person can maintain their capacity to function in society. It is similar to Alcoholics Anonymous, except that it allows feedback. Group therapy is involved.

There are presently no patients on the waiting list for methadone dosing. The current capacity of the Methadone Clinic is 210 clients. There are four categories of client treatment:

3. 21-day detoxification
4. Maintenance, with about 190 clients
5. Two or three slots for persons from other counties, who request dosing when they are out of their regular county program area.
6. A slot for emergencies. Reserved for HIV patients or pregnant patients.

Response: Board of Supervisors PARTIALLY AGREES.

The current capacity of the methadone clinic is 260 patients, of which approximately 225 are on methadone maintenance.

Currently there is no methadone clinic in South County.

Two years is the goal for abstinence from heroin use. Urine testing is required for all clients every 30 days or at the counselors' request.

Presently the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the State of California regulate TRIAD. The Council for Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) is an accreditation agency that focuses on behavioral health. TRIAD is one of 100 agencies nationwide selected for a pilot program to administer Methadone. Accreditation by CARF will allow TRIAD to bill insurance companies for care.

HSA has requested TRIAD to control clients' enrollment and units of service. If TRIAD exceed its budget, the County must reduce funding for other agencies. This year Federal funds increased, enabling TRIAD to eliminate the waiting list.

Response: Board of Supervisors PARTIALLY AGREES.

In the past, limitations on available State and Federal funds resulted in HSA requesting Triad to control client enrollments and units of service. Recent changes in State statute

and policy governing Drug MediCal funding for methadone have enabled Triad to receive State funding for all MediCal beneficiaries who need methadone maintenance treatment

Recommendations

1. Provide methadone services in South County.

Response: Board of Supervisors

The recommendation requires further analysis. The County supports development of methadone services in South County, provided that there is a sufficiently large client base to permit provision of services within State-mandated reimbursement rate caps. Triad is investigating the development of a mobile methadone dispensing unit which could provide dosing services in South County. In addition, there is a bill currently pending in the State Legislature (SB1807, Vasconcellos) which would permit methadone to be dispensed from physician's offices under certain circumstances. If adopted, SB1807 could provide another option for cost-efficient provision of methadone services in South County. Information will be provided to the Board of Supervisors as part of the 2000-01 County budget process.

Schools and Libraries Committee Reports

Santa Cruz County Schools Safety Plan Review – Page 36

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Office of Education

Response Received: August 31, 2000

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

Response Received: September 26, 2000

Findings

Each school in California is required to have a Comprehensive School Safety Plan which conforms to the Comprehensive School Safety Plan Matrix (SB 187) and assures that every member of the school community is prepared to respond immediately to crises and disasters that could occur. The physical characteristics of each school are to be hazard-free. Each schools' environment and programs should reflect the social and ethnic diversity within the student body.

Part of the emergency planning necessary for the preparation of the Comprehensive School Safety Plan and to meet emergencies when they occur is coordination with other relevant government agencies. One of the most important of these is the Sheriff's Department. The Sheriff's Department has the only TAC (Tactical Action Corps) squad in the county, and therefore would be involved in any response to serious violence or threat of violence at any school in the county. Funding for equipment for the Sheriff's TAC squad has come largely from grants and private donations.

The Community Service Centers of the Sheriff's Department are responsible for reviewing school safety planning in conjunction with schools themselves. The school resource officers, currently assigned to all the high schools in the county, are an important part of this review process, as well as providing vital monitoring and early warning functions. The Sheriff's Department is planning to extend the school resource officer program to the middle and junior high schools.

In 1999, the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and the Sheriff's Department co-sponsored a day-long training session for administrators and school security personnel to review procedures in the event of an emergency.

Response: County Office of Education AGREES with all findings.

Response: Sheriff's Office AGREES with all findings.

The Sheriff's Office Special Weapons and Tactics Team continues to train for emergency responses to schools. Training has occurred during non-school hours at local campuses. The team is in need of additional specialized equipment, including new hostage negotiation telephone systems.

Recommendations

1. Schedule regular annual training sessions for the Sheriff's Department and school administrators and security personnel.

Response: County Office of Education

The County Office of Education has met the requirements of this finding through the following activities that are scheduled and in-place for the 2000-01 academic year:

- *Four Regional Safety Schools trainings to focus on school safety, violence prevention, conflict management and emergency preparedness.*
- *Two trainings under the leadership of Dr. Kris Mohandle a specialist working with leadership groups to implement school safety and violence prevention plans.*
- *Training for school security personnel in POST, a law enforcement certification program that combines site management with safe school techniques.*
- *All trainings include invitations to school administrators, guidance counselors, local law enforcement and school security personnel.*

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education has been serving as the California Department of Education's Region V Safe Schools coordinator since 1995. Over that period, we have provided more than 25 workshops throughout Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties, working with district teams and local law enforcement agencies to develop comprehensive School Safety Plans. During this time, the region has seen a drop in nearly every major category that defines a threat to school safety. We enjoy strong relationships with our local law enforcement agencies and will continue to move forward in our efforts to ensure school safety.

Response: Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's Office agrees with the recommendation and will continue to provide assistance in the form of a speaker, special demonstration or sponsorship of school safety training.

2. Extend the school resource officer program to the junior high schools.

Response: County Office of Education

We support the recommendation of the Grand Jury to expand school resource officer programs in the junior high schools.

Response: Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's Office has submitted a federal COPS grant to add school resource officers at three junior high schools

3. Schedule periodic meetings between the various County police agencies and school district supervisors.

Response: County Office of Education

The school district superintendents met during the past year at the Scotts Valley Police Department with the County Sheriff, Chief of Police and the District Attorney to discuss issues of school safety. We will propose a follow up meeting be conducted during the 2000-01 school year.

Response: Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff agrees with the findings. The County Chiefs' Association has met a number of times with the school district superintendents over the past year regarding school safety.

Santa Cruz City School District – Page 38

Respondent: Santa Cruz City School District

Response Received: August 21, 2000

Findings

Westlake Elementary's Comprehensive School Safety Plan addresses a variety of programs designed to reflect the community's social diversity with a focus on supporting the child and family by utilizing community services. The document fails to address several items in the School Safety Plan Matrix: current status of school crime; child abuse reporting procedures; suspension and expulsion policies; teacher notification where expulsion or suspension has occurred and where unsafe or dangerous ongoing behavior may be possible; disaster response procedures; sexual harassment policy and reporting procedures. Student attendance is monitored along with the use of contracts between student, family and school administration in cases of a poor attendance record. Referrals to community resources or other intervention practices are not noted in the plan, nor are referrals to School Attendance Review Board.

Mission Hill Junior High School's Comprehensive School Safety Plan describes its efforts to provide a learning environment with supportive faculty- family- community ties. There are monthly meetings with Child Protective Services, Probation, Mental Health, Court and Community Schools and child and family counseling agencies in the community. There are fire extinguishers in every classroom and four two-channel two-way radios and a fifth radio for the lunch area, which enable intra-school communication. The document fails to address several items in the School Safety Plan Matrix: expulsion policies; teacher notification where expulsion or suspension has occurred and where unsafe or dangerous ongoing behavior may be possible; a sexual harassment policy and reporting procedures; and dress code.

Santa Cruz High School's Comprehensive School Safety Plan fails to address several elements in the School Safety Plan Matrix: current status of school crime; child abuse reporting procedures; suspension and expulsion policies; teacher notification where expulsion or suspension has occurred and where a student presents unsafe or dangerous ongoing behavior may be possible; disaster response procedures; a sexual harassment policy and reporting procedures. The format is inconsistent with the School Safety Plan Matrix, but makes reference to increasing the number of disaster response drills and a continuing review of disaster response plans. The school plans to develop a joint community and school disaster response team, and develop a school safety assessment survey to determine how safe students feel on campus.

Early intervention strategies are focused on problem-solving related to academic difficulties, student truancy, behavior issues and emotional disturbances. As an early intervention strategy, Student Study Teams (SST) were scheduled at schools throughout the district. Data was collected on the number of SSTs held during the 1998-99 school year. The percentage of students referred to SSTs varied from less than 1% to 12%.

Recommendations

1. Write the Comprehensive School Safety Plan for each school to conform to the Comprehensive School Safety Plan Matrix specified in SB 187.

Response: Santa Cruz City Schools

School Safety Plans are updated annually. The Plans for the 2000-2001 school year will be submitted to the District Office and will be on file in each school by the end of October of this year and will conform to the Matrix as specified in SB 187.

2. Rectify omissions noted in the Findings and included them in the final Comprehensive School Safety Plans.

Response: Santa Cruz City Schools

This recommendation is unnecessary at this time. The intention of this finding can adequately and reasonably be accomplished when the 2000-2001 School Safety Plans are complete at the end of October.

3. Place the Comprehensive School Safety Plan for each school in the District in a discrete document in a binder with sections as indicated by the Comprehensive School Safety Plan Matrix with tabs for easy reference.

Response: Santa Cruz City Schools

The 2000-2001 School Safety Plans for each school will be placed in a binder set up for easy reference during November 2000.

4. Include existing handbooks or statements of policy that relate to the Comprehensive School Safety Plan as attachments to the plan and include them in the binder and reference them in the plan.

Response: Santa Cruz City Schools

Existing handbooks and Board of Education Policies will be included in the binder and referenced in the 2000-2001 School Safety Plans.

5. Develop lock down procedures pursuant to SB 187. These plans should be in a checklist format and placed in each classroom and office.

Response: Santa Cruz City Schools

Lock down procedures need to be in every classroom and office. School staff members were trained last year in a hostile intruder inservice that included lock down procedures. In September of this year all school staff members will have a School Site Disaster Guide flip chart, which will include lock down procedures. The Disaster Guide will become a part of each 2000-2001 School Safety that included lock down procedures. In September of this year all school staff members will have a School Site Disaster Guide flip chart, which will include lock down procedures. The Disaster Guide will become a part of each 2000-2001 School Safety Plan, as well.

6. Increase the number of SST meetings in each school district during the year as an early intervention strategy.

Response: Santa Cruz City Schools

This recommendation requires farther analysis. An SST meeting is one of many different strategies provided in our schools for students with unmet needs. An SST is a meeting that has the objective of thoroughly identifying needs and developing an action plan that may include interventions. In order to increase the number of SST's, as recommended, we would need to increase the number of students identified as needing an SST. I suggest, as

an alternative to Finding #6, that we evaluate with principals whether the identification and referral process for SST's is being utilized appropriately.

Scotts Valley Unified School District – Page 41

Respondent: Scotts Valley Unified School District

Response Received: November 30, 2000

Findings

Scotts Valley Middle School, Brook Knoll Elementary, and Vine Hill Elementary Comprehensive School Safety Plans include all the elements required in the Education Code 352942. A review of the plans for all three schools found them to conform to the elements of Comprehensive School Safety Plan Matrix (SB 187).

All three schools have similar warnings systems for lock down procedures in the case of a dangerous person on campus. The bell rings three times. On hearing the alarm, teachers must immediately lock doors and move students away from windows. Brook Knoll utilizes an additional alarm code procedure during class hour announcing over the intercom that “Mr. Eagle is needed in the office immediately.”

While the plans are complete and conform to the Comprehensive School Safety Plan Matrix (SB 187), they were not found to be a ready source of reference. This is a particularly critical need in a crisis situation when a quick response is critical.

Early intervention strategies are focused on problem-solving related to academic difficulties, student truancy, behavior issues and emotional disturbances. As an early intervention strategy, Student Study Teams (SSTs) were scheduled at schools throughout the district. Data was collected on the number of SSTs held during the 1998-99 school year. The percentage of students referred to SSTs varied from 3% to 10%.

Response: Scotts Valley Unified School District AGREES.

The District agrees with the findings regarding the Comprehensive Schools Safety Plan and have taken steps to assure that the plans have been reviewed with staff and are available when a quick response is critical. The second finding was related to Student Study Teams and I have accepted the findings as noted.

Recommendations

1. Place the Comprehensive School Safety Plan for each school in the District in a discrete document in a binder with sections as indicated by the Comprehensive School Safety Plan Matrix with tabs for easy reference.

Response: Scotts Valley Unified School District

The district has complied with recommendation number one by making the Comprehensive Schools Safety Plan available in each school with a binder set up for easy reference.

2. Increase the number of SST meetings in each school district during the year as an early intervention strategy.

Response: Scotts Valley Unified School District

This recommendation requests that we increase the number of Student Study Team meetings in each school as an early intervention strategy. We concur with using Student Study Team meetings as an early intervention strategy. At the current time Student Study Team meetings are held whenever a student is referred so the requirements to increase the number of meetings seems somewhat unclear, as we already have a meeting whenever a student has a need for our Student Study Team.

San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District – Page 43

Respondent: San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District

Response Received: December 15, 2000

Findings

Comprehensive School Safety Plans are in place for all schools in the district that were reviewed. All of the schools' emergency response plans require additional work on: detailed task assignments; staff responses during an emergency; elements of state mandated school safety plan matrix (SB 187) written into plans. The elementary and junior high school plans have only the components relating to Personal Characteristics, Physical Environment, Social Environment and School Culture. These plans are in a loose-leaf format that does not allow quick access of information in the event of an emergency. San Lorenzo Valley High School's plan is user-friendly. The plan is packaged in a binder with an appropriately colored cover, a table of contents, tabs for easy access to information and most of the elements required by the Comprehensive School Safety Plan Matrix (SB 187).

Early intervention strategies are focused on problem-solving related to academic difficulties, student truancy, behavior issues and emotional disturbances. As an early intervention strategy, Student Study Teams (SST) were scheduled at schools throughout the district. Data was collected on the number of SSTs held during the 1998-99 school year. The percentage of students referred to SSTs varied from 3% to 10%.

Recommendations

1. Implement SLV High "Crisis Handbook" checklist format at all schools within the district. Include specific duties and activities for each section of the school's operating personnel.

Response: San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District

Each site already has a "Crisis Handbook" which is updated annually and available at the school office.

2. Write the Comprehensive School Safety Plan for each school to conform to the Comprehensive School Safety Plan Matrix specified in SB 187.

Response: San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District

Each school has a Comprehensive School Safety Plan. Each school has reviewed its plan in reference to the Comprehensive School Safety Plan Matrix specified in SB 187 and has, or is in the process of revising the plan to conform to the matrix.

3. Rectify omissions noted in the Findings and include them in the final Comprehensive School Safety Plans.

Response: San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District

Each school has either completed the process or is currently involved in the process.

4. Place the Comprehensive School Safety Plan for each school in the District in a discrete document in a binder with sections as indicated by the Comprehensive School Safety Plan Matrix with tabs for easy reference.

Response: San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District

Each site already has the Comprehensive School Safety Plan as well as a Crisis Handbook available at the school office. The documents are in binders and tabbed for easy reference.

5. Include existing Handbooks or statements of policy that relate to the Comprehensive School Safety Plan as attachments to the plan and included them in the binder and reference them in the plan.

Response: San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District

Each site has done so.

6. Develop lock down procedures pursuant to SB 187. These plans should be in a checklist format and placed in each classroom and office.

Response: San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District

Lock down procedures require community education, as well as community input and understanding. Each of our sites is involved in this process with the high school taking the lead. Full development of lock down procedures requires full understanding and agreement of various constituencies. No school in the district is currently fully implementing lock down procedures.

7. Increase the number of SST meetings in each school district during the year as an early intervention strategy.

Response: San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District

Each school holds SST's for students based on requests from staff, students and parents. All requests are honored. SST's are one of many strategies developed in the spirit of early intervention. Some of these strategies may even curtail the need for an SST. The district is not necessarily interested in increasing the number of SST's. However, the District is vitally interested in helping students succeed. In the interest of early intervention, and as a compliment to SST or as a stand-alone service, schools in the San Lorenzo Valley School District offer the following early intervention strategies. Student Study Teams are one small piece of a district-wide comprehensive early intervention plan.

Pajaro Valley Unified School District – Page 45

Respondent: Pajaro Valley Unified School District

Response Received: November 21, 2000

Findings

The Starlight Elementary School Comprehensive School Safety Plan includes some of the elements required by the school safety plan matrix (SB 187). The plan does not have the

components relating to Personal Characteristics, Physical Environment, Social Environment and School Culture and only makes references to policies relating to suspension and expulsion. Policies relating to sexual harassment are included only as an attachment. The plan has a specific "Code Blue" procedure for intruders on campus. The plan is on loose sheets of paper with no table of contents or ability to reference information quickly in the event of an emergency.

The Pajaro Middle School plan includes the components relating to Personal Characteristics, Physical Environment, Social Environment and School Culture. The element regarding safe ingress/egress of students, staff and parents to and from school includes only a map of evacuation routes for students and teachers in the event of a fire or earthquake. The middle school plan is enclosed in a binder with tabs clearly identifying each component.

The Watsonville and Aptos High Schools' plans include the components relating to Personal Characteristics, Physical Environment, Social Environment and School Culture. The Watsonville High plan utilizes component headings, but is missing narrative and referenced appendices. Neither plan contains all of the required elements of the Comprehensive School Safety Plan Matrix specified in SB 187. Some of the missing elements include: child abuse reporting procedures; sexual harassment policy; notification of teachers regarding dangerous students; safe ingress/egress to and from campus; rules and procedures relating to discipline. Neither plan is enclosed in a binder with tabs clearly identifying each element and component.

Early intervention strategies are focused on problem solving related to academic difficulties, student truancy, behavior issues and emotional disturbances. As an early intervention strategy, Student Study Teams (SSTs) were scheduled at schools throughout the district. Data was collected on the number of SSTs held during the 1998-99 school year. The percentage of students referred to SSTs varied from less than 1% to 7%.

Recommendations

1. Write the Comprehensive School Safety Plan for each school to conform to the Comprehensive School Safety Plan Matrix specified in SB 187.
2. Rectify omissions noted in the Findings and include them in the final Comprehensive School Safety Plans.
3. Place the Comprehensive School Safety Plan for each school in the District in a discrete document in a binder with sections as indicated by the Comprehensive School Safety Plan Matrix with tabs for easy reference.
4. Include existing Handbooks or statements of policy that relate to the Comprehensive School Safety Plan as attachments to the plan and included them in the binder and reference them in the plan.
5. Develop lock down procedures pursuant to SB 187. These plans should be in a checklist format and placed in each classroom and office.
6. Increase the number of SST meetings in each school district during the year as an early intervention strategy.

Response: Pajaro Valley Unified School District

We agree with the findings and began working on remediating the problems soon after they were brought to our attention. The recommendations have not yet been implemented, but will be implemented by February 1, 2001.

Santa Cruz Public Libraries City-County System – Page 48

Respondent: Santa Cruz Public Libraries

Response Received: July 17, 2000

Respondent: City of Santa Cruz

Response Received: November 1, 2000

Respondent: City of Capitola

Response Received: November 7, 2000

Respondent: City of Scotts Valley

Response Received: July 18, 2000

Findings

The library system expansion includes future plans for the branches in Felton, Capitola and Scotts Valley. The Felton library construction should begin in approximately two years when financing becomes available. A private contribution for the library's construction is in the final process. The building will be about 7,000 square feet. The Library and the Valley Resource Center will share both the space and operating costs. Capitola's branch is housed in a temporary building on Wharf Road. This is the library with the top priority for funding of a permanent structure since its popularity with library patrons exceeds the space available. The Scotts Valley Shopping Center site is 5,000 square feet and is inadequate to service the needs of those patrons using this branch. The City of Scotts Valley has committed to building a permanent site by the year 2008. The building will also house a community center and should afford adequate space for the library.

The Library's new bookmobile began service in 1998. This traveling library stops at scheduled locations in remote sections of the county where access to branches is difficult. The library also sponsors Youth and Senior Outreach Librarians who provide mobile service to child care providers, senior centers and homebound patrons.

Computer use has become a major resource for community residents wishing to access information or to locate books within the library system. There is a monitoring system to assure equal access to computer terminals. A library card is required for computer time sign-up, and time is limited to one hour per day with the library card scan as the monitoring device. Librarians also monitor users to ensure inappropriate Internet sites are not accessed.

Funding for library operations comes from a variety of sources including city and county contributions, sales tax revenue, bequests, grants and fines. Staff and operating hours have been expanded by approximately 71% since 1997 due to increases in funding. A comparability study is being completed to establish a more competitive salary schedule for library staff. This change is necessary to attract and retain quality staff given the current cost of living in Santa Cruz County.

Response: The Library Joint Powers Board AGREES.

Response: City of Santa Cruz AGREES.

Response: City of Scotts Valley PARTIALLY AGREES.

The Grand Jury Report indicates that the City of Scotts Valley has committed to building a permanent library site by the year 2008, and the building would also house a community center. Those statements are not entirely correct as the only obligation the City has is in the agreement between the Scotts Valley Redevelopment Agency and the County of Santa Cruz as indicated above. In the agreement, it indicates that if the Agency not prepared to commence the construction or acquisition of a branch library in the 2007/08 fiscal year, then the Board-of Supervisors may use the accumulated balance and future payments only for facilities, equipment, or materials for a Scotts Valley branch library, located within City. Such language indicates that the Board of Supervisors may have the ability to build a library within the City of Scotts Valley; however, it cannot do so with only the in lieu payments being made by the City. They would also need other funding sources to make it a reality. Also at this time, the idea of a joint community center/library is only one of various scenarios we are exploring. In the end, it may be that a library and a community center are independent structures due to funding opportunities and development timing.

Recommendations

1. Budget staff salaries at a level indicated by the comparability study findings.

Response: The Library Joint Powers Board

The FY 2000-2001 Operating Budget adjusts professional staff salaries to a level that meets those of comparable county libraries. Position classifications and specifications have also been revised. A classification study of non-professional staff is being conducted by the City of Santa Cruz. When it is available (Fall, 2000), recommendations for changes can be made.

Response: City of Santa Cruz

Professional staff salaries have been increased to the appropriate level. The City's study of its classification system is nearing completion, and any appropriate adjustments pursuant to this study will be made in consultation with employee bargaining units.

2. Continue aggressive efforts to secure funding for library staffing and operating expansion.

Response: The Library Joint Powers Board

The Library staff and the Joint Powers Board continue to pursue available grant opportunities and other options to increase funding.

Response: City of Santa Cruz

The library aggressively pursues all available sources for these objectives.

3. Work with the City of Capitola to procure funding for a permanent library facility adequate to serve the needs of the users in the Capitola area.

Response: The Library Joint Powers Board

Under its Redevelopment Agreement with the County of Santa Cruz, construction of a permanent Branch is the responsibility of the City of Capitola.

Response: City of Capitola

The recommendation requires further analysis. The City of Capitola is currently engaged in a process of amending its Redevelopment Plan. The project of a permanent library is on the list of projects being considered for funding from redevelopment tax increment. It is expected that within the next two to three months, joint meetings of the Capitola Redevelopment Agency and the Capitola City Council will be held to discuss this project in the context of the redevelopment plan amendment discussions.

Response: City of Santa Cruz

While this is contractually the responsibility of the City of Capitola, the library director and I both have excellent relationships with Capitola's officials and would be pleased to offer our advice and assistance as appropriate to help meet this goal.

4. Move forward on an accelerated time line for a permanent facility with adequate space in Scotts Valley.

Response: The Library Joint Powers Board

Under its Redevelopment Agreement with the County of Santa Cruz, construction of a permanent Branch is the responsibility of the City of Scotts Valley.

Response: City of Scotts Valley

An agreement between the Redevelopment Agency of the City of Scotts Valley and the County of Santa Cruz, currently provides for a stream of in-lieu payments made by the Agency to the County Library Fund, which commenced in 1997-98 and will continue until such time as:

- *The Agency has designed and constructed, or acquired, a Tier 11 branch library of approximately 12,500 square feet; or*
- *The present value amount of the in-lieu payments equals \$3 million. It is my understanding that the fund currently has approximately \$150,000.*

At this time, with the improved library in Scotts Valley, the recent focus by the Joint Powers Authority is on the increased operating hours. The current operating hours are staggered and it is closed on Sundays.

Discussions regarding enhanced library facilities continue with the Joint Powers Authority, the Library Director, and Scotts Valley Redevelopment Agency staff. The opportunity for that rests upon adequate funding. With the most recent passage of Proposition 14 (Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2000) and participation by the Joint Powers Authority, which is receiving substantial sales tax dollars, an enhanced library is very possible in the short term.

Response: City of Santa Cruz

This is contractually the responsibility of the City of Scotts Valley, but again, the library director and I would be pleased to offer any appropriate assistance.

Special Districts Committee Reports

Response: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

The Grand Jury Final Report lists the Board of Supervisors as a respondent to the reports on the Central Water District, the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, the Santa Cruz City Water Department, the Scotts Valley Water District, and the Soquel Creek Water District. In addition, the report identifies the County Agricultural Commissioner as a respondent to the report on the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency. The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and the County Agricultural Commissioner do not have jurisdiction over these autonomous special districts, each of which has its own elected Board of Directors. For this reason, the County is not providing a response to the findings or recommendations of the Grand Jury.

Central Water District – Page 50

Respondent: Santa Cruz Public Libraries

Response Dated: November 30, 2000

Findings

The district was formed in 1951. The Agency is designated as a ‘Special District’ and is responsible to the *California Water Codes*, and is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of five members. The daily operations staff consists of a District Manager, one Administrative Assistant, and one Maintenance Worker. The support staff consists of a District Counsel and a District Engineer.

All district water is well water pumped from the Purisima Aquifer and some parts of the Red Sands Aquifer. District customers are almost entirely on septic tanks, which helps to recharge the aquifers. The entire area is controlled by a ten acre zoning restrictions. The district has six active wells. Well No.2 is currently on standby.

District 1999/2000 build-out was projected for 944 connections. The district is below its proposed schedule.

District water fees have been raised three times in the past 15 years. Current fees are \$20 bimonthly for residential accounts. Meter consumption rates start at \$1.20 for the first 30-meter units. All 4-inch meters are \$90 each and 2-inch meters are also at a determined fee.

The existing distribution system is composed of a variety of pipe materials including World War II-era tar paper wrap pipe. The integrity of this type of pipe is suspect. In time it may leak. The district has a capital improvements program to upgrade the distribution system as needed.

The district attempted to pass an ordinance that would have required all new construction to tie into the district system if the construction was within 500 meters of a main. The proposed ordinance failed. There is a possibility of reintroducing the ordinance at a later date.

The district’s existing drought procedure was created in 1989, and needs to be updated. This is of primary concern to the district manager. During the last major drought, the district did experience shortfalls in supply, but achieved complete recovery soon after the end of the drought. It appears the district is the last water district in the County to register declining groundwater levels and the first to recover. The district’s static water level is currently as

high as that recorded in 1966. Should an extreme emergency arise, the district has two connections with the Soquel Creek Water District. It should be noted that the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency water line on Hames Road is located within 500 feet of hook-up to the Central Water District. The district manager expressed his opinion that making this water connection should be encouraged for emergency purposes.

Response: CWD PARTIALLY AGREES.

The Districts' water is pumped primarily from the Aromas Red Sands Aquifer and secondarily from the Purisima Aquifer.

The majority of land within District boundaries is zoned as a recharge area within a ten-acre minimum light size.

In the 1985 North Santa Cruz County Water Master Plan, the District build-out was projected as 944 services.

The District requested that the Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors incorporate a change in the County Well Ordinance to require new construction within the Central Water District to connect to the District's system if the parcel was being developed lay within 500 feet of a distribution line. The proposed change was not included in the amended County Well ordinance.

The District did experience a decline in ground water levels during the last major drought but hose levels have since recovered in full.

In the last paragraph, the second to last sentence should be corrected to read: "It should be noted that the water line of the City of Watsonville on Hames Road is located within 500 feet of hook-up to the Central Water District.

Recommendations

1. Consider the Central Water District as a possible emergency source of water for the rest of the County.

Response: CWD DISAGREES.

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable.

District groundwater levels declined substantially during the last major drought, which indicates that the District's water supplies could be dramatically affected by other groundwater pumpers pulling from the same aquifer. The Board of Directors recognizes that the aquifers that supply the District contain a finite quantity of water. The amount of water that is available from those sources is unknown. It is unwise to assume that District might be a possible emergency source of water for the rest of the County. The Central Water District, therefore, does not recommend that its water sources be considered an emergency source of water for the rest of the County. Over-pumping could have a negative impact on the District's ability to meet District customer needs.

Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency – Page 53

Respondent: Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency

Response Dated: September 13, 2000

Findings

According to the PVWMA, the current pattern of pumping is part of the problem. Average pumping of groundwater is currently approximately 70,000 acre/feet per year, while sustainable yield with the current pattern of pumping is estimated at only 25,000 acre/feet per year. PVWMA estimates that an optimal pumping pattern could increase the sustainable yield of the basin to 50,000 acre/feet per year. This would reduce the estimated shortfall from 45,000 acre/feet per year to 20,000 acre/feet per year.

A revised State of the Basin Report and a Basin Management Plan will provide further information.

The Board and the staff of the PVWMA have begun a process of informing the public of the seriousness of the shortfall problem and of developing a consensus for action. The PVWMA has also begun to build a local diversion and recharge project at Harkins Slough and will soon begin the construction of another at Murphy Crossing. The PVWMA has proceeded with a number of agricultural water conservation projects and is currently soliciting proposals for further project. The Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors recently directed the PVWMA to continue with the collection of voluntary water usage survey reports from agricultural users. According to PVWMA officials, the survey project has met with resistance from the public and is not developing sufficient data to form a conclusion. The information to be obtained from the water usage survey is of critical importance.

Due to its location, the PVWMA is the most likely beneficiary, along with Soquel Creek Water District, of importation of water from the San Luis Reservoir via pipeline.

A desalinization plant is a technically feasible water supply option for the entire County. However, the enormous expense and environmental difficulties make its realization unlikely in the near future.”

Response: PVWMA AGREES.

Recommendations

1. Consider other means of ensuring compliance with the water usage survey, if voluntary compliance is slow or inadequate.

Response: PVWMA

In June of 2000, the Board adopted Ordinance 2000-03, mandating completion of the Farm Water Conservation Plan.

2. Make both the Basin Management Plan and the State of the Basin Report available to the public as soon as possible.

Response: PVWMA

The Basin Management Plan has been distributed, and it is anticipated that the State of the Basin Report will be distributed within a month.

3. Continue and intensify the current public information campaign of the PVWMA.

Response: PVWMA

The PVWMA has retained a public relations firm and is conducting public outreach with presentations to community groups, schools, at public events, production of bilingual newsletters, field tours, mailings and ads in local publications. This effort is ongoing.

4. Continue to promote demonstration project.

Response: PVWMA

Demonstration projects are ongoing, and budgeted to continue into the future. Results of the demonstration projects will be presented to the agricultural community to help provide state-of-the-art training in conservation measures.

5. Develop and present plans for optimizing the pumping patterns at an early date, so they can be considered by users and by the Board of Supervisor.

Response: PVWMA

The Harkins Slough Project is the first part of an effort supported by the BMP process to identify and implement the most reasonable method of reducing pumping at the coast, thereby optimizing pumping in the basin. The Harkins Slough Project will begin supplying water to the coast in summer of 2001, if construction schedules are met.

6. Work closely with the County and other water districts to continue review of the option of desalinization.

Response: PVWMA

The PVWMA hosted a meeting of the Santa Cruz and Monterey County water agencies this spring to discuss partnering in a desalination effort. We will continue this effort and welcome input from neighboring agencies.

7. We encourage the 2000/2001 Civil Grand Jury to continue to observe and to investigate efforts to address this important problem.

Response: PVWMA

We welcome and appreciate the effort and commitment by the Grand Jury in monitoring and providing input to the critical problems of water supply in the County.

Santa Cruz City Water Department – Page 55

Respondent: Santa Cruz City Water Department

Response Dated: Jun3 30, 2000

Respondent: Scotts Valley Water District

Response Dated: None Received

Respondent: Soquel Creek Water District

Response Dated: October 31, 2000

Findings

The Santa Cruz County Water Department is funded through water rates. The department has certain fixed costs that must be covered by the revenue generated by the water rates. When overall usage declines through improved water conservation, it is necessary for rates to increase to cover these fixed costs. Water conservation is, therefore, a public relations

double-edged sword. Citizens will conserve in drought years but they are “inconvenienced” in non-drought years.

The department obtains 20% of its water from wells and 80% from surface sources. Wells are located at various North County sites and water is transported by pipeline to the City processing location. A major reservoir (Loch Lomond) is located in the Santa Cruz Mountains.

There is also access to wells, currently inactive, located in the southern part of the City that were originally part of a privately owned water company.

The department's annual water demand is approximately 4,500 millions of gallons per year (MGY). Estimated sustainable annual yield from sources currently available to the District is 4,300 MGY. This means that, even during normal years, there is a slight shortfall in available water resources which is greatly exacerbated during drought years. Buildout for the service area of the Santa Cruz Water Department is anticipated by the year 2050 at which time it is expected that water demand will have increased by 1,000 MGY. If a major drought were to occur, the City might have a shortfall up to 48% in water supply. A total ban on outdoor water use would save only 28% leaving a net shortfall of 20%.

A conservation plan (Urban Water Management Plan) has been in place since 1985. The Santa Cruz City Council, which acts as the governing board for the Santa Cruz Water Department, looks to conservation rather than to finding new water sources or adding surface storage to meet expected shortfalls. Previous efforts to construct additional reservoirs were abandoned because of concerns by the City Council that such action would promote growth.

According to department officials, the County, including the Santa Cruz Water Department, is not considered a water-short area given that it receives adequate rainfall to supply the needs of consumers. However, current storage capacity is inadequate to capture the runoff for use. The construction of additional storage is unpopular because of the environmental impact, costs, and fears that such construction will promote growth. It is also a highly controversial subject with the Board of Supervisors. Water managers in the county have come together to form a County-wide Task Force to begin a process of discussing ways to address the continuing shortfall between demand and the sustainable yield of current sources. The Santa Cruz Water Department is working toward establishing interagency projects. A conjunctive project with Scotts Valley Water District and Soquel Creek Water District to rest wells in the winter and then use them in the summer; and serving some customers in the Lockwood area of San Lorenzo Valley.

According to Department officials, desalinization is one option, but it has many negatives. For every ten gallons of salt water processed, only two gallons of fresh water are extracted. Cost-intensiveness, ocean intake and outfall needs, holding tanks, processing plants, disposal of brine, as well as the potential impact on the Monterey Bay Sanctuary, result in the political

Response: City of Santa Cruz Water Department PARTIALLY AGREES.

The Santa Cruz Water Department obtains about 10% of its supply, not 20%, from groundwater. Also, the source of that groundwater is not the north coast area, but rather, the Purisima Aquifer in the Live Oak area. This is important in that it is the same aquifer from which Soquel Creek draws its water supplies.

Response: Soquel Creek Water District PARTIALLY AGREES.

This report specifically relate to the Santa Cruz City Water Department. The first five paragraphs comment on the City's water sources, demand, available yield, and policy decisions on conservation and new water supply development. Soquel Creek Water District is unable to confirm whether these are accurate findings, and, therefore, can neither agree nor disagree.

With respect to the sixth paragraph, we would substantially agree with the first four sentences. We would partially disagree with the fifth sentence. The adopted mission statement of the Interagency Water Resources Working Group lists its purpose as: 1) Review and comment on proposed County programs relative to water resources management and protection prior to action by the Board of Supervisors; 2) Recommend actions the County and/or the water agencies may wish to consider with respect to water resources management, conservation, and water quality programs within their respective jurisdictions; and 3) Identify opportunities for and encourage Interagency collaboration on regional water supply, conservation, water resources management and water quality programs.

With respect to the last two sentences of the sixth paragraph, we cannot comment on the statements regarding conjunctive use projects between the City of Santa Cruz and Scotts Valley Water District or the City serving some customers in the Lockwood area of San Lorenzo Valley. With respect to the portion of the seventh sentence that reads: "A conjunctive use project with ... Soquel Creek Water District to rest wells in the winter and then use them in the summer...", this option is no longer being considered. The City determined that, due to restrictions on their water rights for Loch Lomond Reservoir and high turbidity in their stream sources that reduces the frequency with which they can divert, Santa Cruz does not have surplus surface water to supply our District during the winter months.

With respect to the seventh paragraph, we partially disagree. The ratios given for seawater to freshwater produced are incorrect. The sentence should read: "For every two to three gallons of seawater processed, one gallon of fresh water is extracted." We would also disagree with the conclusion that this is a politically unpopular option. Recent indications are that it may be the most politically acceptable alternative available.

Recommendations

1. Continue current conservation programs when needed.

Response: City of Santa Cruz Water Department

While it isn't entirely clear what is meant by the term, "when needed," the Department is expanding its conservation staff in this fiscal year and is implementing a multi-million dollar expansion of its existing conservation programs to reduce system use by nearly 300 million gallons within the next ten years.

Response: Soquel Creek Water District

The City determined that, due to restrictions on their water rights for Loch Lomond Reservoir and high turbidity in their stream sources that reduces the frequency with which they can divert, Santa Cruz does not have surplus surface water to supply our district during the winter months.

2. Continue working toward establishing the conjunctive project with Scotts Valley and Soquel Creek Water Districts.

Response: City of Santa Cruz Water Department

This department agrees with this concept and will continue to work on regional solutions through the Inter-Agency Water Resources Working Group.

Response: Soquel Creek Water District

Soquel Creek Water District has actively expressed our interest in exploring the feasibility of a regional desalination project with the City of Santa Cruz but, as of this date, has not received a reply. This is one of the primary options being considered in the District's Supplemental Supply EIR.

3. Work closely with the County and with the other water districts to continue review of the option of desalinization.

Response: City of Santa Cruz Water Department

This Department agrees with this recommendation and intends to continue its commitment to cooperative work, not just on desalination, but also any other potential supply augmentation projects, e.g. wastewater reclamation.

4. We encourage the 2000/2001 Civil Grand Jury to continue to observe and to investigate efforts to address this important problem.

Response: City of Santa Cruz Water Department

This is a recommendation that is outside the control of this department, but likely every department or water district in the County would agree the water supply situation in this County is a very serious problem and any attention given this problem from any source is welcome.

San Lorenzo Valley Water District – Page 57

Respondent: San Lorenzo Valley Water District

Response Dated: None Received

Findings

While the northern system of the San Lorenzo Valley Water District appears to have no water supply problems, the southern system is in overdraft. There have been discussions concerning the interconnection of the northern and southern systems. Connection could allow excess surface water from the northern system during the winter months to supplement the ground water in the southern system. Another alternative would be for the SLVWD to connect to and purchase water from the Loch Lomond reservoir; there is an agreement in place to allow this.

Recommendations

1. Develop a plan to prevent the southern system from over-drafting its wells.
2. We encourage the 2000/2001 Civil Grand Jury to continue to observe and to investigate efforts to address this important problem.

Scotts Valley Water District – Page 59

Respondent: Scotts Valley Water District

Response Dated: October 31, 2000

Findings

According to district officials, an area of concern involves recharge rates to aquifers used by the City of Scotts Valley for residential and commercial purposes. District officials were unable to provide information regarding rates of recharge at this time. A study was approved in the fall of 1999 to determine rates of recharge within the district. The same firm has been contracted since 1984 for a variety of projects, and is currently working on ground water level comparisons.

The district has a number of recharge programs in place or planned. Check dams exist along Bean Creek, and are built up to approximately three feet in height. These dams push water out into the walls of the creek and assist with recharge within the environs. Other recharge work being pursued by the district includes: diverting high flows from Carbonera Creek for injection into the aquifer; establishing a cooperative with the San Lorenzo Valley Water District by sending reclaimed water to Kaiser quarry in return for fresh water; continued discussions with Santa Cruz City Water Department concerning the use of surplus winter water for recharge of Santa Cruz City wells.

Issuance of meters to large developments has been halted by the Scotts Valley City Council, the governing board for the SVWD. Future projections forecast up to 400-500 hook-ups, representing a growth rate of 10-15%. According to district officials, the City Council imposed four conditions on the district before considering removal of this meter moratorium: create a means to incorporate reclaimed water into the system; drill a new well; install a one-million gallon potable water tank; and, make sure the aquifer is in balance.

Within the district there is a large demand for outdoor irrigation. The District will be able to address this issue by using tertiary water. District officials believe reclaimed water will replace 200-350 acre feet per year from other sources. A tertiary plant was completed in the fall of 1999 and is currently not in production because of irregularities within an outdated piping system.

A desalinization plant is a technically feasible water supply option of the entire County. However, the enormous expense and environmental difficulties make its realization unlikely in the near future.

Response: City of Scotts Valley Water District PARTIALLY AGREES.

The Scotts Valley Water District does not agree with the findings on page 59, paragraph 3 under "Findings". The City Council of Scotts Valley is NOT the governing board. The governing board of the Scotts Valley Water District is a separate and elected Board of Directors under the Water Code of the State of California, §30,000 et seq., of the County Water District law. The Board of Directors of the Scotts Valley Water District imposed the four conditions to be met before the prohibition for issuing new water meters would be lifted, not the City Council.

Recommendations

1. Continue discussions with the Santa Cruz City Water Department related to the feasibility of usage of excess winter water flows from Scotts Valley to Santa Cruz for recharge.
2. Promote a dual use system with potential major non-potable water users.

3. Meter all area wells and monitor them to ascertain the heavy users and attempt to have these users practice better water conservation.

Response: City of Scotts Valley Water District

This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted and is not reasonable. The Scotts Valley Water District has meters on all of its wells and meters on all of the customer's services. We do monitor other area wells for our AB 3030 Plan, but we do not require meters on private wells. The only a few private wells in the Water District and they are small residential wells. All the large wells are outside the boundaries of the Water District.

4. Work closely with the County and other water districts to continue review of the desalinization option.
5. We encourage the 2000/2001 Civil Grand Jury to continue to observe and to investigate efforts to address this important problem.

Soquel Creek Water District – Page 61

Respondent: Soquel Creek Water District

Response Dated: August 2, 2000 and October 31, 2000

Findings

Recently, symptoms of decline have appeared in the aquifers indicating that sustainable levels of pumping have been exceeded, thereby increasing the potential for salt water intrusion. The district currently sells approximately 5,400 acre-feet of water annually, an estimated 600 acre-feet per year more than the estimated sustainable yield of the aquifers. Accurate records are not available for private well pumping. It appears the district is responsible for about 55% of the total annual well pumping in the Purisima Aquifer and a much smaller portion of the pumping in the northwestern portion of the Aromas Red Sands Aquifer.

Projected water needs indicate increasing overdraft of the aquifers. The projected usage is as follows:

- Estimated usage for the year 2001, when currently vacant lands inside the urban service line are developed, is 5,900 - 6,400 acre-feet per year.
- Estimated usage for the year 2006 when vacant lands outside the urban service line, but within the district's sphere of influence, are developed is 6,200 - 6,400 acre-feet per year.
- Estimated usage for the year 2030 when area build-out is reached is 6,800 - 7,500 acre-feet per year.
- This increased estimated usage indicates growing overdrafts of the aquifers unless additional sources of water are found.

Due to its location, the Soquel Creek Water District is the most likely beneficiary, other than the Pajaro Valley Water Management District, of importation of water from the San Luis Reservoir via pipeline.

Desalinization is one option but has many negatives. For every ten gallons of salt water processed, only two gallons of fresh water are extracted. Cost-intensiveness, ocean intake

and outfall needs, holding tanks, processing plants, disposal of brine, as well as the potential impact to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary, result in the political unpopularity of this option.

Current conservation programs could reduce water demand by 650 acre-feet per year over the next 30 years.

Cabrillo College is a major user of water for irrigation. It also has a separate irrigation system which could lend itself to use of tertiary water.

Response: Soquel Creek Water District PARTIALLY AGREES

We partially disagree with the findings to the extent that they are outdated and contain misinformation in the following respects. First of all, the timeframe given for development of vacant lands inside the urban service line will probably not be reached in 2001, and the anticipated usage for the year 2001 is approximately 6% less than the earlier projection. While the timeframe for increased water demand may continue to lag, the ultimate demand projections remain unchanged. At the time of the Grand Jury's investigation, desalination did appear to be a less viable option for supplementing the District's groundwater supply than a surface water project. Additional studies being undertaken by the district may show that this option is more feasible than originally thought. Costs for a surface water project are rising, while improved technology has resulted in desalination becoming more financially acceptable. The District is underway with preparation of an Environmental Impact Report that will explore all of the issues associated with both surface water and local desalination project options, as well as evaluate on a program level a possible regional desalination project.

As noted above in the response to the Santa Cruz City Water Department findings, the ratio of brine to freshwater stated in the report is incorrect. -Should the District be able to locate a brackish source of water instead of the pure seawater proposed in the Santa Cruz project, the ratio of brine to freshwater would be even less than 2 to 1.

Recommendations

1. Continue current conservation programs.

Response: Soquel Creek Water District

The District has gone beyond this recommendation to continue to enhance and expand our conservation programs. The budget for conservation and communication has been increased by 18% and new programs have been added such as water efficiency surveys for high use customers.

2. Promote a dual use system with potential major non-potable water users, particularly Cabrillo College.

Response: Soquel Creek Water District

It should be noted that Cabrillo College currently provides its own well water to serve the needs of the main campus and all irrigation. Soquel Creek Water District has been working closely with the College's Master Plan consultants and staff to incorporate water conservation into the design and operational decisions for the renovated and expanded campus. At this time, a separate irrigation system for reclaimed water is not being planned since there is no foreseeable source of reclaimed water supply. The

College is, however, seriously considering synthetic turf for its renovated playing fields and a campus-wide water efficient landscape design. These actions would significantly and immediately reduce the water demand.

The only other major water use development to occur within the District is Anna Jean Cummings Park. Again, the District worked closely with the County Redevelopment Agency to maximize irrigation efficiency. A dual use system was not installed because there is no foreseeable source of supply. The Redevelopment Agency has indicated a willingness to convert to reclaimed water for irrigation at this park should that source of supply become available in the future.

3. Meter all area wells and monitor them to ascertain the heavy users and attempt to have these users practice better water conservation.

Response: Soquel Creek Water District

Soquel Creek and Central Water Districts have joint powers authority for groundwater management within our combined service area boundaries, but we do not have any jurisdiction over wells that are outside of these service areas, even though they are within the Soquel-Aptos groundwater basin. Most of the wells in mid-County fall into this category and, therefore, it is up to the County to adopt any ordinance(s) concerning metering and use of those wells. The District has provided input to the County for the well metering ordinance currently being considered by the Board of Supervisors. We support the proposal to begin the program by requiring meters on all new wells and then to require meters on existing wells that produce 2.5 acre-feet or more per year within critical groundwater areas. The County has identified all of the Pruisima aquifer and the Aromas Red Sands within the mid-County area as critical groundwater areas subject to the ordinance requirements. Soquel and Central Water Districts will be reviewing the final ordinance language approved by the County in order to mirror those requirements for wells within our combined jurisdiction. In the meantime, the District has sent a letter to the owners of the approximately 200 private wells within our service area describing the groundwater concerns and urging them to practice conservation.

4. Pursue and develop off-stream diversion and ground injection water project for Soquel Creek.

Response: Soquel Creek Water District

The District is currently preparing the IER for this project along with desalination as discussed above.

5. Work closely with the County and the other water districts to continue review of this option.

Response: Soquel Creek Water District

The recommendation has been implemented. The District's General Manager participates in monthly meetings of the County's Integrated Water Resources Management Group as well as continues to communicate with other water agencies on possible supplemental supply project collaborations.

6. We encourage the 2000/2001 Civil Grand Jury to continue to observe and to investigate efforts to address this important problem.

Response: Soquel Creek Water District

The District would welcome the continued interest of the Civil Grand Jury on our progress toward addressing the issue of sustainable water supply.

Watsonville City Water Department – Page 63

Respondent: Watsonville City Water Department

Response Dated: July 18, 2000

Findings

The average water demand is six million gallons per day (mgd) with a maximum of ten mgd. Demand is met by pumping from 12 wells utilizing seven storage facilities. The largest storage facility has a capacity of six million gallons and the smallest has a capacity of 240,000 gallons. Pajaro Dunes is connected by pipeline to Watsonville, although the pipe is not currently in use. Water for Pajaro Dunes is pumped and stored locally. Electrolyte levels in Pajaro Dunes are at safe levels. Testing is done regularly at all sources for electrolyte levels.

The City of Watsonville has plans for potential or planned joint projects with the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA). They include Harkins Slough, Murphy's Crossing and College Lake.

The department would benefit from water imported from the San Luis Reservoir via pipeline, since its use by agricultural would help replenish the aquifer from which the department draws its water. That project was recently rejected by voters of the two districts. The department is working with the PVWMA to overcome the objections that led to the rejection of this project.

In a joint project with PVWMA, the department has completed a study on the feasibility and environmental impact of using reclaimed water for agricultural purposes in Monterey County. It is also working with PVWMA to find ways to optimize pumping patterns in the basin by moving wells, including the department's, away from coastal locations.

Response: City of Watsonville Water Department AGREES.

Recommendations

1. Continue cooperation on joint projects with the PVWMA.
2. Implement the proposal to use reclaimed water for agricultural purposes in Monterey County.

Response: City of Watsonville Water Department

The City has recently entered into contracts with the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency (PVWMA) and the consulting firm of RMC and Associates for the preparation of a preliminary engineering report and environmental assessment of a wastewater recycling (reclamation) project at the City's wastewater treatment plant. Assuming that adequate funding can be secured and there are no unexpected political or environmental

obstacles, it is possible that a wastewater recycling project can be completed sometime within the next five years.

Special Charge: Youth and Substance Abuse

Prevention – Page 66

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

Response Received: September 26, 2000

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Office of Education

Response Received: August 31, 2000

Respondent: Aromas-San Juan Unified School District

Response Received: November 21, 2000

Respondent: Bonny Doon Elementary School District

Response Received: November 3, 2000

Respondent: Happy Valley Elementary School District

Response Received: November 22, 2000

Respondent: Live Oak School District

Response Received: December 12, 2000

Respondent: Pacific Elementary School District

Response Received: November 2, 2000

Respondent: Pajaro Valley Unified School District

Response Received: None Received

Respondent: San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District

Response Received: None Received

Respondent: Santa Cruz School District

Response Received: None Received

Respondent: Scotts Valley Unified School District

Response Received: None Received

Findings

EDUCATION (DRUGS):

Ongoing drug education is needed for youth, at least through high school. Parents, teachers, coaches, community leaders and all who influence youth behavior need to be educated. Current programs are inconsistent; there are no county standards.

The principal drug education programs for youth in Santa Cruz County is Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.), which teaches decision-making skills and emphasizes healthy alternatives to drugs. D.A.R.E. is taught primarily at elementary and middle school levels. There is a complementary high school D.A.R.E. program in various stages of implementation in Scotts Valley and San Lorenzo Valley. Other school districts may or may not be using D.A.R.E. and some districts have their own high school programs. For example:

- Santa Cruz City Schools has a secondary school program called “Healthy Teens”. It incorporates drug and violence prevention with health education, and offers individual and group counseling.
- In South County, the Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance (PVPSA) Agency works closely with the Pajaro Valley Unified School District and the

Watsonville Police Department. PVPSA provides several prevention programs and, in addition, intervention and treatment programs that, in many cases, involve parents and other family members along with troubled students.

- The Santa Cruz County Office of Education (SCCOE) continues to work on a thirteen-point 'Call For Action' plan, developed in 1999, aimed at reducing youth drug use. The plan includes expansion of several programs currently in use throughout the county, such as, the 'clean and sober' school program, counseling and mentoring, living skills, health and drug education modules, dispensing of up-to-date information for students and parents, and teacher training programs.
- A video series for parents entitled "Helping Your Kids Stay Drug-Free" was presented (English only) in March and April and repeated in May, 2000, in both English and Spanish. Telecasts were broadcast by Community Television of Santa Cruz County, in cooperation with The Criminal Justice Council, Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance, Friday Night Live and the County Sheriff's Department. Look to these agencies for information on future airings of these and other important videos.

EDUCATION (ACADEMICS) :

Options, for example, trade schools, are very important to many Santa Cruz County youth. Approximately half of our teens do not pursue higher education—many do not graduate from high school.

The SCCOE-supported Regional Occupational Program (ROP) currently offers 40 subjects in six broad career pathways to over 5000 teens and adults at 17 sites across the county. Details of the program can be viewed on the ROP Internet web site (www.rop.santacruz.k12.ca.us).

The SCCOE also supports Alternative Education Programs for approximately 1000 students who do not succeed in traditional school settings. In addition to academics, the program teaches living skills, and includes school-to-work and self-esteem building programs.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES:

Youth have varied needs. In addition to a sound drug and academic education, after school activities play an important role in their overall development. They need a place to go and after school activities. Most schools offer sports programs, but not all students are athletes. Many are interested in the arts (music, dance, drama, visual arts, etc). Some just need a place to play, such as, skate boarding. Others want to or need to work - they need career counseling and job opportunities.

The San Lorenzo Valley Teen Center, which opened in 1999, boasts excellent participation and positive results. First year monitoring indicates a significant downturn in youth crime.

Scotts Valley leaders are currently planning a similar center.

The City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation Department is working on a Teen Center plan. A site has now been designated and the center should be operational this year. The goal is to provide programs for teens and young adults. The teen job-training program Student Training and Employment Program (STEP), directed by Parks and Recreation, will be expanded within the center, creating employment for youth to assist with running and maintaining the facility. Partnerships with other youth-serving groups are already in place and include; the

County Office of Education (alternative schools program), Barrios Unidos (Community Based Gang Intervention Agency), Youth Services (support services for teens and parents on substance abuse issues), Youth Crisis Prevention/Intervention Team, Friday Night Live (County Health Services in drug/alcohol prevention), the Youth Serve Program of the Volunteer Center (involves youth in community service-learning projects), the Santa Cruz Boys and Girls Club (recreation for youth), and others.

In Watsonville, Youth Services programs are directed toward improving academic skills, building self-esteem, and developing job and life skills. In addition, the Police Activities League (PAL) sponsors and oversees several sports programs and youth events.

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education plan described above also supports after-school recreational activities. Programs have been implemented in some school districts – other districts could emulate the more creative ideas, such as the PVUSD program which is focused on the arts, and Live Oak School District’s technology-based program.

Skateboarding and in-line skating are very popular in Santa Cruz County, and skate parks are generally scarce. However, County Parks and Recreation has built a skate park in the Live Oak area and a second is planned for Aptos. The city of Santa Cruz has selected a site for a new skate park, which is scheduled to be built later this year. Other communities where skate parks are being considered include Watsonville, Ben Lomond and Scotts Valley.

Youth Coalition Santa Cruz (YCSC) is a program of Youth-SERVE/Volunteer Center, City of Santa Cruz, Friday Night Live, Resource Center for Nonviolence, and the Boys and Girls Club. YCSC is a youth-run group, to empower and support all young people. The coalition provides an outlet for youth ideas, concerns and activism with “a vision to manifest ideas into social changes in our community.” Their programs provide leadership training and encourage community involvement. The Volunteer Centers of Santa Cruz County host a “Teen Volunteer Alliance” and have recently published a ‘Youth Volunteer Opportunities Guide’. To learn more about YCSC, check their Internet web site (www.scvolunteercenter.org) or call (831) 427-5070.

Safe, well planned and managed youth events are another key to effective prevention, for example, the multimedia dance party in conjunction with First Night Santa Cruz. Co-sponsored by the County Alcohol and Drug program and Friday Night Live, the New Year’s Eve party featured both live and recorded music, and soft drinks – alcoholic beverages and drugs were not allowed, The event attracted more than 3,000 young people between the hours of 7:00 and 11:00 p.m.

NEW PROGRAMS:

Each year TFY/UPNJ addresses the most relevant issues derived from Santa Cruz County Youth Survey results.

The most recent surveys continue to show that alcohol is the drug of choice among youth and emphasizes its ease of access. They reveal that the average age of first time intoxication is 13.5 years among users of alcohol and that a third of our eleventh graders use alcohol more than once per month - many weekly and some daily. The numbers of users are growing. In efforts to curtail this alarming trend, the Civil Grand Jury Foreperson joined TFY/UPNJ and the Santa Cruz County Alcohol and Drug Program to assemble a Policy Panel to determine what could be done to control youth access to alcohol. More than 50 leading citizens of Santa

Cruz County worked together to prepare 26 recommendations in five areas including; community, schools, law enforcement, land use and zoning, and merchant practices. The recommendations, published in February 2000, are described in a 15 page TFY/UPNJ report entitled "Policy Panel on Youth Access to Alcohol". Everyone involved with youth, especially parents, should read the Policy Panel Report and take appropriate action.

In addition to the Policy Panel Report, TFY/UPNJ has published two pamphlets to help parents recognize potential youth drug and alcohol problems and guidelines on what to do. Titles are: "Drugs, Alcohol and Teenagers" and "Heroin Use among Young People". Both are available in English and Spanish from TFY/UPNJ.

Copies of the Policy Panel Report and the two pamphlets are available in both English and Spanish from TFY/UPNJ at (831) 479-5466. The documents are also accessible on the United Way internet web site (www.unitedway.scc.org).

Response: County Board of Supervisors AGREES.

Response: The County Office of Education AGREES.

Response: Aromas-San Juan Unified School District – no comment on findings

Response: Bonny Doon Elementary School District AGREES.

Response: Happy Valley Elementary School District AGREES.

Response: Live Oak School District AGREES.

Response: Pacific Elementary School District AGREES.

Recommendations

1. Continue to follow and support the Together For Youth Prevention Plan—including the Policy Panel Report recommendations.

Response: County Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being implemented. The Board of Supervisors supports implementation of the Together for Youth Prevention Plan through participation by staff of several County departments, including the Health Services Agency, Sheriff's Department, Parks and Recreation, and the Human Resources Agency. With the support of staff from HSA, Together for Youth is prioritizing recommendations from the Policy Panel Report for implementation in the 2000-01 fiscal year.

Response: Aromas-San Juan Unified School District

The District is in concurrence with this recommendation and does, and will continue to, support the Together for Youth Prevention Plan. Aromas School, located in Santa Cruz County, will continue to be guided by the tenets of the Plan.

2. Assure that all county school districts have drug education programs through grade 12.

Response: County Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being implemented. School districts have primary responsibility for implementing drug education programs in school settings. The County Health Services Agency supports school-based drug education programs by funding school

districts, and coordination of training on state-of-the-art prevention programs for school staff and outside agencies that provide drug education in school settings.

Response: Aromas-San Juan Unified School District

Drug education programs are in place through D.A.R.E. program and TUPE program components from the California Department of Education; Club Live activities for middle school youth; curriculum pertaining to drug issues in the high school health classes; and mental health counseling services.

3. Recognize PVPSA family programs as model programs to be emulated.

Response: County Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being implemented. The County works closely with PVPSA on a variety of issues regarding youth.

Response: Aromas-San Juan Unified School District

This is indeed an excellent program that the District would benefit from. The District does have an ongoing support program with the San Benito County Sheriff's Department.

4. Expand the Regional Occupational Program to address the needs of job market.

Response: County Board of Supervisors

The County Board of Supervisors has no jurisdiction in this matter, but supports the recommendation.

Response: Aromas-San Juan Unified School District

ROP is in place at Anzar High School. We currently offer two classes, Video Production and Computer Business Applications. Plans are underway to further expand the program for the 2001-02 school year.

5. Expand creative after-school programs across all county school districts.

Response: County Board of Supervisors

This implementation is being implemented. The County Health Services Agency's Alcohol and Drug Program will continue to work with schools, Together for Youth, cities and others to expand after-school programs countywide. Together for Youth, with support from the HSA Alcohol and Drug Program, assisted in the development of the San Lorenzo Valley Teen Center, and has obtained grant funding to support the development of a Teen Gathering Place in the City of Santa Cruz. Opening of the Teen Gathering Place is one of Together for Youth's key objectives for 2000-01.

Response: Aromas-San Juan Unified School District

Aromas-San Juan Unified School District has comprehensive after-school programs at Aromas and San Juan Schools. Funding sources include Title VII and Healthy Start programs.

6. Expand job centers and vocational counseling for high school youth.

Response: County Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being implemented. Employment services are provided to eligible youths through the Human Resources Agency at the three One-Stop Career Centers (West Beach Street in Watsonville, Emeline Complex in Santa Cruz, and the EDD office in Live Oak) and through the Workforce Investment Act programs.

Response: The County Office of Education

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education has, through many of its division, taken steps to assist the community in dealing with the issue of substance abuse among adolescents. The Alternative Education Department has existing collaborations and partnerships that promote healthy lifestyles and we are in the process of expanding and developing new ones to address this issue.

As the recipient of a State-funded Drug suppression Grant, students who are enrolled in County Office of Education Alternative Education Programs receive counseling, education and referral services. Admittedly, more is needed; therefore, we have expanded our partnerships. A third clean and sober transition school program is set to open this fall for adolescents who successfully complete the existing YES School or Quetzal School. The Alternative Education Department will also provide educational services to adolescents residing in the newly proposed Tyler House residential program. In addition, we have formed a strategic collaborative with the Pajaro Valley Prevention Student Assistance (PVPSA) Program and Human Resources Agency through the Workforce Investment Act. This grant provides counseling, job training, mentoring, and tutorial services to targeted adolescents. Two assessment centers, in conjunction with these new programs, will open in the fall giving the County Office of Education the immediate ability to conduct academic, vocational and emotional assessment on referred adolescents. The assessment centers will be located at Esperanza School 'in Watsonville and VISTA School in Santa Cruz.

The Alternative Education Program's partnership with the Santa Cruz Police Department includes training and education for teachers and instructional aides in the area of drug awareness and prevention, Parent education programs will also be expanded during the 200001 school year in an effort to increase awareness among parents of students who are enrolled in Alternative Education programs. An after-school soccer league for at-risk adolescents located in Watsonville is in the formative stage.

As previously stated in another category of this report, the Alternative Education Program has received a \$700,000 two year grant award to implement the educational component of the Workforce Investment Act. Among the targeted student population are those who require additional assistance to complete an education program or to secure and hold employment, including substance abusers. Services will include tutoring, study skills training, basic skills instruction, life skills training and dropout prevention activities, alternative secondary school options, employment opportunities, work experience, occupational skills training, comprehensive guidance and counseling and support and follow-up services. The goal of the Workforce Investment System is to increase the employment, retention and earnings of participants, reduce welfare dependency and enhance the productivity and competitiveness of our population.

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education Regional Occupational Program (ROP) currently offers forty subjects in six broad career pathways to over 5000 teens and adults

at 17 sites across the County. Programs in the computer industry have been expanded at Aptos High School, Harbor High School, Renaissance High School, Santa Cruz High School, San Lorenzo Valley High School, Scotts Valley High School, Soquel High School and Watsonville High School. ROP courses are already being expanded to include the new high schools of Scotts Valley and the proposed second Watsonville high school. The courses offered by the ROP are a result of ongoing attention to the directions of the job market.

Outreach Vocational coordinators for North and South County high schools were added to the ROP in 1999-2000. Additional career counselors are being placed at the new county high schools in Scotts Valley and the second Watsonville location. Surveys among ROP and non-ROP high school students were conducted at all county high schools during the 1999-2000 school year to determine vocational education awareness and participation trends.

We concur that ROP should be expanded but our enrollment is capped by the State. We would appreciate political and legislative support to expand training for ROP, after-school programs, job centers and vocational counseling at junior and senior high levels.

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education applauds the efforts and successes of the PVPSA and Together for Youth Prevention Program and support their expansion.

Response: Aromas-San Juan Unified School District

Anzar High School now has a "School-to-Career" coordinator who assists in vocational counseling and job placements.

Response: Bonny Doon Elementary School District

Bonny Doon Union Elementary School District (BDUESD) applauds the efforts and successes of the PVPSA and Together for Youth Prevention Program and supports their expansion.

BDUESD has implemented the recommendations in the following ways:

The Superintendent of BDUESD meets monthly with the Santa Cruz County Superintendent and the Superintendents from all of the County School Districts. At these meetings, District Administrators share successful programs as well as network with one another to improve specific areas that need more attention. BDLJESD has joined with the Santa Cruz County Children's Network (we are all community partners) to better understand where resources are needed. By working together, we better understand the risk factors, the protective factors and how we can make a difference. In this setting, the principal of BDLTESD has gathered further info about the implementation of the PVLJSD programs in elementary schools.

Enforcing existing laws and ordinances is important. Our school strictly enforces the no alcohol, drugs, or tobacco on campus. BDLTF-SD is embracing the recent assignment of a sheriff's deputy to the Bonny Doon area. The school has created a deputy's station (desk, phone, etc.) in order to facilitate the deputy to be on campus as often as possible. We look forward to fostering positive relationships with law enforcement and our students (grades pre-school through grade 6) in a preventative atmosphere.

Bonny Doon does not have a central district, let alone a community center. The School Board has declared their support for the school to serve as a community center. Our facilities-use calendar is evidence of the wide variety of after-hours events that take place at the school. These events include activities for children of all ages as well as adults. The activities included sports, music, dance, drama, martial arts, yoga, gardening, foreign language, etc. We work in cooperation with the volunteer fire department, the local church and retreat center as well as individuals who use the site for family events.

BDTJESD has a comprehensive After School Program that serves K-6 students with childcare services as well as extended day academic and environmental programs. Our After School Programs Director is a credentialed teacher with wide range of experience in working with parents of students with special needs, dysfunctional families, and other stressful situations. Close relationships are developed between the families and their caregivers. This creates an opportunity to provide resources to families in need (such as counseling referrals, behavior plans, homework help, etc.).

Response: Happy Valley Elementary School District

Happy Valley School District supports the ongoing implementation of the Together for Youth Prevention Plan. Students at Happy Valley School will participate in a Drug Education Program, which stresses decision making skills and healthy alternatives to drugs.

The family programs provided by the Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance Agency serve as models for all schools. Happy Valley promotes parent participation in a variety of ways including Family Art Nights, Student Performances, and After School Activities. Students in second through sixth grades participate in our Computer Lab and Homework Help Center programs after school from 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Many Happy Valley students also take part in after school recreational activities supervised by parents.

Although our elementary school students are not old enough to take advantage of Regional Occupational Programs and other vocational programs, I support the continuation and expansion of these opportunities for high school students.

Response: Live Oak School District

The recommendations identified for its age group (pre K-8) are being addressed and implemented through the District's Healthy Kids Task Force. It should be noted that the District has made several joint-use proposals with Santa Cruz County Parks and Recreation to host a Teen Center in Live Oak.

Response: Pacific Elementary School District

Pacific School District has actively taken steps to implement curriculum that promotes healthy choices and to provide programs that encourage participation in activities where children learn to work and play as members of a caring community.

Although Pacific School District only serves children in grades K-6, we also have a nationally recognized preschool where early intervention for possible 'at-risk' students is a high priority. We feel that the health of our community's teens is of great importance and our Board of Trustees has actively supported the development of a tee center that is coordinated through the Community Action Board (CAB) and the Davenport Resource

Service Center(DRSC) with additional funding from the Packard Foundation. We have agreed to lease a Pacific School building to the Davenport Teen Center, where our local teens will receive homework help and participate in social events, athletic opportunities, and community service work.

Pacific School developed and implemented a School Safety Plan in 1998 that addresses drug use and health issues. Nutrition and health are important, integrated parts of our curriculum and the focus of our award winning Life Lab and Food Lab programs. Children are taught to value their minds and bodies through since united designed to promote healthy choices. As the classroom teacher in the 4-6th grade class, prior to taking over as District Administrator, I developed a drug education program, after a two-year project and thesis, on drug education. The program focuses on making healthy choices and setting goals by developing strong self-esteem and appreciation for health bodies through the study of human anatomy and honest discussion about drugs and their effects.

Our afterschool recreation program has been so successful that we are finding it hard to provide the space for as many students as want to participate. Children are directed in rich activities that include art projects, sports and music.

Over the last year, Pacific School has entered into a partnership with the Santa Cruz Sheriff's Department by adding a sheriff who has a regular North Coast assignment. The officer, Stephen Fish, has made a real effort to get to know people in the community and be known. He checks in at the school regularly and has become known as a sheriff's officer who is approachable and willing to hear the needs and concerns of the community. His presence has discouraged violence, vandalism, and hopefully, drug using by local youth.

Enforcement – Page 71

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

Response Received: September 26, 2000

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

Response Received: September 26, 2000

Findings

While our most recent survey indicates that youth drug use is lower in several key areas, drugs continue to be plentiful and readily available to Santa Cruz County youth. Youth crime has decreased in some areas, such as, San Lorenzo Valley - the San Lorenzo Valley Resource Center attributes the drop in youth crime to its Teen Center activities and community-supported youth programs. Several additional projects are currently in progress.

Response: Sheriff's Office AGREES.

Although some areas of drug use by minors are in decline, Santa Cruz County still ranks higher than many other communities for youth drug and alcohol usage. The San Lorenzo Valley Teen Center is a valuable local asset that provides a healthy, positive alternative for youth. The Sheriff's Office supports the center and coordinated a Gun Buy Back Program as a fund raiser for the center.

The first Juvenile Justice Task Force (JJTF) project is a Laws For Youth Handbook. Printing and distribution is expected by Fall 2000.

The second JJTF project is Truancy Impact. Fact-gathering and compiling have been completed. Following analysis, the release plan will include a community forum later this year.

Response: Sheriff's Office AGREES.

The Sheriff's Office will continue to participate in the Juvenile Justice Task Force.

One of JJTF's new initiatives is to assess the need for a Juvenile Drug Court. This is also the first priority of the Drug and Alcohol Abuse Task Force. The two groups will work together on this and other areas of mutual concern, such as, efforts to secure a detoxification site exclusively for youth. Another JJTF's ongoing project is improvements to Juvenile Hall classrooms, medical services and recreation areas.

The Juvenile Hall Overcrowding Task Force has been working with the courts and law enforcement agencies countywide since August 1999. The programs they have initiated appear effective, as evidenced by the reduced number of youth in residence at Juvenile Hall. One year ago, the facility built to accommodate a maximum of 42 juveniles was inhabited by over 60. More recently, the number of wards in residence has been less than 40. This success is attributed mainly to diversion programs and more aggressive court scheduling to shorten the time incarcerated youth have to wait at Juvenile Hall before their case is heard.

The County Probation Department, in conjunction with law enforcement agencies across the County, continue to support diversion programs for first time offenders. These programs employ closely monitored home supervision techniques. FENIX Services in Watsonville provide day programs allowing first time youth offenders to avoid Juvenile Hall. Electronic monitoring is used for less serious offenders, even if it is not their first offense.

The Watsonville Police Department's Broad-based, Apprehension, Suppression, Treatment and Alternatives (BASTA.) program, supported by the County Probation Department, is a gang violence suppression project to divert gang activity and promote positive, constructive behavior.

Response: Sheriff's Office AGREES.

The Sheriff's Office is a BASTA partner providing a full-time deputy sheriff to the program.

The City of Santa Cruz has recently passed a 'shoulder-tap' ordinance making it illegal for minors to solicit the services of an adult to obtain alcoholic beverages. It has always been illegal for adults to obtain alcoholic beverages for minors. The intent of this ordinance is to allow law enforcement officials to intervene and take appropriate steps to discourage young offenders from using alcohol, just as other diversion programs work to stop youth from using all drugs.

A new County position has been created for alcohol and drug assessment and evaluation of both court wards and non-court wards. This staff position will enable a closer, more direct involvement, by County Alcohol and Drug Services.

Sheriff's Community Service Centers make it much easier for non-city residents to utilize the services of the Sheriff's Department. The four Centers are located in Freedom, Live Oak, Aptos and Felton. A Sergeant is assigned to each location along with deputies who patrol the area. They are involved in their respective communities including youth anti-drug programs, sports activities and other school and community programs. The Centers are staffed Monday through Friday by trained volunteers who work as a team with the Sheriff's office to provide a host of neighborhood services. They enable deputies to focus on more serious crime issues. These dedicated volunteers are valuable assets to the Sheriff's Department and to their communities.

Neighborhood Accountability Boards (NABs), established by County Probation mid-1999, offers an opportunity for the community to take an active role in confronting and resolving the problems of juvenile crime in their neighborhoods. The program provides an effective alternative to prosecution of first time offenders by holding the minor accountable through a variety of sanctions including restitution, community service, education and counseling. To date, more than twenty cases have been heard by trained community volunteers in five Santa Cruz County communities and only two offenders have repeated. Conventional processes were then enforced and the two offenders were remanded to Juvenile Hall as wards of the court.

Teen Peer Court offers a "by teens for teens" alternative for misdemeanor crimes by 13 to 17 year olds. This program emphasizes self-improvement, self-esteem and a healthy attitude.

Response: Board of Supervisors AGREES.

Response: Sheriff's Office AGREES.

The Sheriff's Office participates in the neighborhood accountability process. Sheriff's Service Center staff provides investigative information to the Board on cases and space for the Neighborhood Accountability Board to meet.

Recommendations

1. Continue diversion and intervention programs aimed at keeping first time youth offenders out of Juvenile Hall. Support participation by all law enforcement agencies countywide.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation has been and will continue to be implemented. In calendar year 1999, 712 youth were diverted. Several hundred more were involved in the alternatives to detention services.

The County Health Services Agency participates in the implementation of this recommendation through a Juvenile Hall Alcohol and Drug Specialist who provides assessment, treatment referrals and case management services for youth in Juvenile Hall and their families. HSA provides for mental health and substance abuse treatment services for first-time youth offenders and others through contracts with Youth Services, Palomares, Triad, Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance, and the Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center. New services to be opened in 2000-01 include a mid-county Youth Services clean and sober classroom, and a 6-bed residential dual diagnosis youth program.

Response: Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's Office will initiate a new program in the fall to work with youthful runaways to provide services and referrals. Often runaways turn to criminal activity or become victims. This important program will divert first-time offenders away from criminal activity.

2. Maintain other successful programs, such as, Neighborhood Accountability Boards and Teen Peer Court.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being implemented. The County Probation Department plans to expand the accountability boards in the upcoming year. Teen Peer Court funding is being lost, however, the Teen Peer Court Advisory Board and the Probation Department will be actively seeking new funds to continue programming. The Teen Peer Court program only diverts about 15 youth annually and is viewed primarily as an educational opportunity for youth not in the juvenile justice system, however, the County supports the program and will continue to do so.

Response: Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's Office will continue to assist the Neighborhood Accountability Boards and Teen Peer Court.

3. Continue BASTA support and expand to include other communities where youth gangs are present.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation requires further analysis. BASTA has been funded since 1992-93 by the Office of Criminal Justice Planning and is a multi-component, inter-agency collaborative project. Although the BASTA program has been very successful, the on-going status of the program is in some doubt. Continued funding from the Office of Criminal Justice Planning is not expected to continue after June 30, 2001. The loss of the OCJP grant is \$500,000 per year, plus \$150,000 in local match. Several attempts to duplicate the BASTA model in North County have been unsuccessful despite great effort. The BASTA Steering Committee will be working on sustainability plans through the end of this calendar year. If possible, the group will reapply to OCJP or seek additional sources of funding.

Response: Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's Office will continue its partnership with the BASTA Team. A deputy is assigned to the BASTA Program.

4. Continue efforts to establish a permanent juvenile drug court.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being implemented. The County Alcohol and Drug Program is currently administering a Federal planning grant for determining the feasibility of implementing a drug treatment court for juveniles in Santa Cruz County. The members of the Drug Court Steering Committee include the Probation Department, Courts, District Attorney's Office, Criminal Justice Council and Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance, Inc.

Response: Sheriff's Office

The Sheriff's Office supports a Juvenile Drug Court and will participate with CJC towards implementation.

Treatment – Page 74

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

Response Received: September 26, 2000

Findings

As recommended, residential treatment became a high priority item in 1999. In the current fiscal period, two six-bed residential youth treatment centers, operated by Palomares Group Homes, have been opened for adolescent boys referred by Santa Cruz County Probation. The homes are located in Aptos and Freedom.

The Group Home Society of Aptos provides treatment for adolescent girls, but the facilities are inadequate. The demand is much greater than services available.

For non-court wards, the County Department of Alcohol and Drugs has obtained funding and have selected the Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center to manage a new co-ed residential facility. A La Selva Beach home has been procured for this facility that should be operational July 2000. An initial six beds are to be expanded to ten beds in 2001. A program manager has been hired.

County Probation has also initiated a community-based day treatment program, called Probation Alternative Resources for Kids (PARK), with centers in North County and South County. Each Center can accommodate eighteen minors who participate in a highly structured six month program. The program is staffed by Probation officers six days a week and includes evening events. Crisis/mobile service response is available on days the centers are closed. Participating minors receive a full schedule of academic classes from the Santa Cruz County Office of Education. In addition, a wide variety of educational and counseling services are available to participants and their families, provided by several cooperating community-based organizations.

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education "Clean and Sober" school program, in conjunction with YOUTH SERVICES, currently provides day-treatment services for 50 eligible youth, 20 in Watsonville and 30 in Santa Cruz.

Response: Board of Supervisors AGREES.

Recommendations

1. Continue to assess youth treatment needs and support a continuum of services at strategic locations - outpatient, site-based and residential services.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being implemented. Currently an inter-disciplinary team from the Probation Department and Mental Health and Drug and Alcohol Services are meeting to assess the treatment needs and identify gaps in services. One of the gaps that has already been identified is residential treatment for female court wards. The team is assessing services including GROW, PARK, Redwoods and group homes to determine

what additional assessment, treatment and aftercare services are needed to deal more effectively with court wards who need treatment - both outpatient and residential. A number of new funding sources may become available during this fiscal year to enhance drug treatment services. A six-month planning period is anticipated with responsible parties being Dane Cervine, Mental Health; Bill Manov, HSA, Drug and Alcohol Services; Scott MacDonald and Judy Cox, Probation.

2. Establish permanent residential treatment facilities for girls, in and out of the criminal justice system.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being implemented. A residential treatment program that accommodates girls is opening this calendar year. This program will accept girls who may be involved with the criminal justice system, but who are not court wards. Additional study is needed to determine if there are sufficient numbers of girls needing treatment who are court wards to make opening of a free-standing residential treatment program for girls a feasible option. Other options include development of a co-ed residential treatment program for court wards, establishing a regional program for girls, or admitting female court wards to the new co-ed residential youth treatment program for non-court wards.

3. Establish youth and family alcohol and drug counseling in strategic county locations.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being implemented. HSA has contracted with Youth Services to open a new, 30-slot day treatment clean and sober classroom in mid-County in 2000-01. In addition, HSA contracts with numerous providers of youth and family alcohol and drug counseling services throughout the County. As additional funding becomes available, further expansion will be considered.

4. Continue creative funding programs as described in the County High-Risk Drug Task Force plan.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being implemented. The Health Services Agency is leveraging State and Federal funding sources wherever possible to develop additional services. For 2000-01, HSA is working with Palomares to obtain new EPSDT MediCal funding to strengthen alcohol and drug treatment supports during evening and weekend hours (including more intensive family treatment) at the Palomares 12-bed residential program for court wards. HSA is also initiating discussions with existing providers to expand outpatient and case management services for youth using Drug MediCal funding.

5. Continue efforts to secure a detoxification site for youth.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being implemented. Outpatient detoxification of youth from heroin is available through the Triad methadone clinic, however, there is clearly a need for additional detoxification services for youth. It is well-established in the research that the vast majority of persons who do not receive continuing treatment services after

detoxification quickly relapse. Consequently, it is essential that development of any new detoxification services for youth be accompanied by development of additional on-going treatment services to accommodate youth who complete the detoxification program.

Coordination – Page 76

Respondent: Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors

Response Received: September 26, 2000

Respondent: Santa Cruz City Council

Response Received: None Received

Respondent: Watsonville City Council

Response Received: December 7, 2000

Respondent: Scotts Valley City Council

Response Received: September 26, 2000

Respondent: Capitola City Council

Response Received: November 2, 2000

Findings

The main obstacle to implementing good ideas is lack of funding. Whether supported by state, federal and private grants or from county and city general funds, there are always too many programs and too little funding. The need to prioritize is ever present, as agencies continue to compete for available funds. Effective prioritization requires decision-makers to be well informed.

County and City leaders must be aware of the potential dangers of programs that advertise “NO ALCOHOL,” such as, RAVES or TRANCES - and other all-night dance parties where ‘club drugs’ are known to be prevalent. The menu often includes MDMA (ecstasy), GHB, ketamine (special K), methamphetamine, LSD and other popular party drugs associated with date rapes, serious health problems and even youth deaths. Research by the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) clearly shows that there are no harmless ‘club drugs’. All are addictive and all can cause serious and possibly permanent physical and mental impairment - and death.

Though progress is being made on several fronts – prevention, enforcement and treatment - the problem is certainly not solved. All we can do is continue to work the issues and do everything possible to keep our youth healthy and safely out of harms way. The grand jury can contribute significantly to these efforts by confronting the issues and reporting on status and effectiveness of programs. Identifying continuing and changing needs will help keep our county and city officials focused and the citizens of Santa Cruz County informed.

Response: Board of Supervisors AGREES.

Response: Capitola City Council – no response to Findings.

Response: Scotts Valley City Council – no response to Findings.

Response: Watsonville City Council AGREES.

Recommendations

1. Continue to recognize and support the most knowledgeable involved organizations for effective direction, such as, "Together For Youth/Unidos Para Nuestros Jovenes" for prevention and the Juvenile Justice Council for enforcement.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being and will continue to be implemented.

Response: Scotts Valley City Council

The Police Department for the City of Scotts Valley has been active for many years with "Together For Youth/Unidos Para Nuestros Jovenes" by our attendance through administrative personnel and more recently, working closely with our juvenile officer within the department's Investigations Unit. The Chief of Police has been involved for many years with the Juvenile Justice Council as a member of that board and has carried numerous programs as well as vital information back to the community, personally or through departmental staff.

In addition to these organizations, the Police Department Captain attends the Criminal Justice Council Juvenile Justice Task Force which has developed a good deal of countywide programs as well as successfully obtaining grants on state and federal levels to address these issues. In recent years, the department has further reached out to the community in order to focus on our community's youth through a summer TREK Program involving children from ages 7 to 14 years, which was designed to have police officers bond with children as part of our PAL Program.

This summer, the Police Department initiated a Junior Police Academy where junior high and high school students are given the opportunity to bond and observe the actual workings of police personnel during an 8-week summer program. These programs are run by the Investigations Unit as is the School Resource Officer program which is the newly created position at the Scotts Valley High School as well as a part-time Juvenile Community Services Officer, who is responsible for assisting not only the SRO but also with the entire juvenile officer program.

Response: Watsonville City Council

The City's recreation division participates in the Together for Youth

Collaborative and the police department participates in the Juvenile Justice Task Force of the Santa Cruz County Criminal Justice Council. In addition the City collaborates with Pajaro Valley Prevention and Student Assistance Inc. and Pajaro Valley Unified School District in matters related to youth drug abuse.

2. Continue to use the County High-Risk Drug Task Force treatment plan and creative funding recommendations as long as they remain valid. Reassemble this task force as needed to maintain a relevant plan.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being and will continue to be implemented.

Response: Scotts Valley City Council

The Scotts Valley Police Department continually supports and attends the County Criminal Justice Council Drug and Alcohol Task Force. As a result of this task force, Santa Cruz County has established its first ever drug court for adults and is currently looking into utilizing this same program for juveniles. This task force is attended by the department's administrative staff and the task force is directed through the Criminal Justice Council that is attended regularly by the Chief of Police and two City Council Members.

Response: Watsonville City Council

Santa Cruz County's High Risk Drug Task Force was a coalition of leaders in the areas of juvenile drug alcohol prevention and treatment. They sought strategies to provide services to court and non-court wards with drug addictions and high drug use. One such treatment strategy was the Freedom based Palomares Group Home. The Watsonville Police Department will continue to coordinate youth referral services for drug treatment with the probation department through the three police department based probation officers. Information about offenders and the need for treatment facilities is also discussed and coordinated through the multi-disciplined gang violence prevention program known as BASTA. In addition the City seeks Federal and State funding to provide youth alternatives to drug, alcohol and gang activities. The City's programs include a wide range of alternatives such as: the Police Activities League, soccer leagues, a new Freedom Branch Library, youth night activities with Friday Night Club Live, science workshop activities, computer lab, and recreational activities throughout the year.

3. Take steps to assure that all appropriate agencies are knowledgeable about new, potentially epidemic drug problems, and the public is kept informed.

Response: Board of Supervisors

This recommendation is being and will continue to be implemented. The County Health Services Agency is implementing this recommendation through support of the semi-annual student alcohol and drug survey, and coordination of inter-agency information sharing about new drug trends in venues such as the Together for Youth prevention collaborative and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission. HSA has worked with Together for Youth to develop and distribute pamphlets for parents about youth heroin use, and will continue such efforts in the future.

Response: Scotts Valley City Council

The Police Department for the City of Scotts Valley has continual, ongoing training through the Department of Justice, the Santa Cruz County Narcotics Enforcement Team (SCCNET), the California Narcotics Officers Association (CNOA), the Orange County District Attorney's Office through its video training updates, as well as the California Peace Officers Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) courses that certify police officers' training on a statewide basis. This type of training allows officers from the department to be knowledgeable about the new and potentially epidemic drug problems occurring not only in Santa Cruz County but also throughout the state of California as well as the nation.

The department has taught drug awareness programs through the DARE institute to children within the City of Scotts Valley for the last six years. This last year, we expanded this program into the new Scotts Valley High School and taught a record number of 700 students through the Scotts Valley Unified School District as well as a private Christian school located in Scotts Valley. Additionally, high school parents are being introduced to a drug awareness program specifically designed for parents. This program is taught by the School Resource Officer and will be an ongoing program for parents attending this high school.

Response: Watsonville City Council

This recommendation is being and will continue to be carried out. The City of Watsonville is doing this through financial support of the semiannual student alcohol and drug survey. Coordination of inter-agency information sharing about new drug trends occur in settings such as the BASTA gang violence prevention collaborative, Santa Cruz Narcotics Enforcement Task Force and the Juvenile Justice Task Force. In addition the City has developed and did surveys of students, parents, and the community about drug use. The City used this data to develop strategic plans to address the problem. The City with the help of KCBA-FOX 35 produced and aired a public service announcement. The City also developed and distributed pamphlets to parents and the business community about youth drug use, drugs and their symptoms, and where to get help. The City will continue such efforts in the future.

4. We encourage the 2000/2001 Civil Grand Jury to continue to observe and to investigate efforts to address this important problem.

Response: Board of Supervisors

The County Board of Supervisors supports the recommendation.

Response: Scotts Valley City Council

The City of Scotts Valley agrees with this recommendation.

Response: Watsonville City Council

The City supports the recommendation.

Response: Capitola City Council

The Capitola Police Department is extremely aware of youth drug abuse in Santa Cruz County, and works on a daily basis in enforcement and prevention. We have implemented many programs and strategies to deal with this critical problem. Currently the Capitola Police Department participates in or administers the following programs. All of these programs are funded by the city's general fund, and carried out by police department employees:

- *Teach the DARE program to all of Capitola Elementary School's 5th grade students We also visit the younger students, and teach a DARE module in the middle school. Our commitment to Capitola's youngsters in this regard is part of Capitola PD's very framework.*
- *Administer a Youth Diversion program that requires all first and second time minor offenders to meet with a youth services officer. Youth that are determined*

to be at risk or involved in drug abuse, are referred to a county drug diversion program.

- *Police Department staff is involved with, and a member of the "Together For Youth/Unidos Para Nuestro Jovenes" organization.*
- *Members of the Criminal Justice Council's Juvenile Justice Task Force*
- *Member of the School Attendance Review Board.*
- *Our uniformed officers visit the school grounds daily, having lunch with the kids, and talking with them about the perils of drug use and the dangers of violence.*

The City of Capitola is committed, through it's police department, to doing all within its ability to train and educate our youth about the dangers and consequences of using drugs and alcohol.



County of Santa Cruz

Instructions for Respondents

Instructions for Respondents

Key provisions of Penal Code §933.05 require that the responding officials or governmental entities must specifically comment upon each finding and each recommendation of the Grand Jury Report, rather than preparing a generalized response. Each published finding must be acknowledged by the respondents as correct or incorrect. Explanations for disagreements must be provided. Please use the format below to prepare your response. The full text of Penal Code §933.05 is provided below.

Response Format

1. Provide the title and page number from the original report.
2. Provide the date of the response.
3. Quote the text of the original finding.
4. Respond to the finding indicating if the entity
 - agrees
 - partially agrees
 - disagreesIf the entity partially agrees or disagrees with the finding, specify the section of the finding and include an explanation.
5. Quote the text of the original recommendation.
6. Respond to the recommendation indicating if the entity
 - has implemented the recommendation
 - has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a time frame for implementation
 - requires further analysis with an explanation, scope, parameters, and the time frame for completion which should not exceed six months
 - will not implement the recommendation because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation
7. Respond to each report in a separate document or separate pages of one document to allow the easy distribution of the responses to the various committees.
8. For an example, see the Board of Supervisors responses to the 1999-00 Grand Jury Final Report: <http://www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/grndjury>.

When to Respond

A table indicating which entities are required to respond follows each report. This table also includes the corresponding recommendation numbers requiring a response and the number of days each entity has to respond. Responses from elected officials or administrators are required no later than 60 days from the publication of this report, August 31, 2001. Responses from the governing body of any public entity are required no later than 90 days from the publication of this report, September 30, 2001.

Where to Respond

The Honorable Robert Yonts
Presiding Judge
Santa Cruz Superior Court
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Penal Code §933.05

- a) For purposes of subdivision (b) of Section 933, as to each grand jury finding, the responding person or entity shall indicate one of the following:
 1. The respondent agrees with the finding.
 2. The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefor.

- b) For purposes of subdivision (b) of Section 933, as to the each grand jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:
 1. The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.
 2. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a time frame for implementation.
 3. The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a time frame for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This time frame shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.
 4. The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefor.

- c) However, if a finding or recommendation of the grand jury addresses budgetary or personnel matters of a county department headed by an elected officer, both the department head and the board of supervisors shall respond if requested by the grand jury, but the response of the board of supervisors shall address only those budgetary or personnel matters over which it has some decision-making authority. The response of the elected department head shall address all aspects of the findings or recommendations affecting his or her department.
- d) A grand jury may request a subject person or entity to come before the grand jury for the purpose of reading and discussing the findings of the grand jury report that relates to that person or entity in order to verify the accuracy of the findings prior to their release.
- e) During an investigation, the grand jury shall meet with the subject of that investigation regarding the investigation, unless the court, either on its own determination or upon request of the foreperson of the grand jury, determines that such a meeting would be detrimental.
- f) A grand jury shall provide to the affected agency a copy of the portion of the grand jury report relating to that person or entity two working days prior to its public release and after the approval of the presiding judge. No officer, agency, department, or governing body of a public agency shall disclose any contents of the report prior to the public release of the final report.